

and the peace and quiet, he hoped for so much.

But, however depressed he might have felt, David couldn't dwell on it too long.

There was too much happening all around him.

The first Partridge Family album had been released, while "I Think I Love You" was rapidly approaching the gold stakes. That was David's next major stepping stone on the ladder of fame. . . . The first Partridge Family single struck gold on the 11th November. Nobody had been in much doubt that it would. . . . The question had not been 'if' but 'when'.

Even so, it gave plenty of cause for celebration for all the folk involved in it, especially David as lead singer. So here he was at another peak of happiness in his life. But, unfortunately, tragedy struck again at that moment. . . . In the same month that David made his first gold disc of so many, his close friend Kevin died from an overdose of drugs.

David was shattered.

Now it had happened to two people who had been important in his life. . . . The other person had been Jimi Hendrix.

One of David's big regrets is that he never met Jimi in person. Had he lived, it's almost certain that they'd have gotten together some time. 'Cos David idolized Hendrix. He saw him in concert every chance he got. And it was always his dream to be just half as good on guitar as the legendary Jimi had been.

## CHEATED

Drugs had cheated him out of the chance of a meeting face to face. And drugs had now robbed him of a dear friend.

It took all David's professionalism to keep him on the rails as far as his work was concerned at this time.

But, as Keith Partridge, David was committed to too many people to allow himself to go under: "The danger would've been if I'd had plenty of time to think and brood," he decided. "As it was, I barely had time to eat, breathe and sleep in between work, which was the best possible way for it to be at that time."

Once the Partridge Family finished shooting at the end of the first season, David was off on a two-week promotional tour with Shirley.

It was ten cities in fourteen days. And it hit

David like a whirlwind!

"Of course, I got used to the pace of things in time," he smiled, "But I'll always remember the way that first personal appearance tour took my breath away.

"I smiled so much, I thought my mouth'd be stuck like that permanently. And, boy, I shook so many hands and signed so many autographs that it was a constant surprise that my hand was still there on the end of my arm each night!

"I guess that was the first time it really hit me what stardom meant."

And that was only the start!

Brendan Cahill was the mind and organising power behind the tour, as he would be behind so many of David's later tours. Before David, he'd figured as the Monkees' recording manager, so he really knew all the ropes—plus the major hang-ups!

He did a great job, and—thanks to his splendid organisation—David and Shirley managed to stay sane through what turned out to be a really hectic tour. . . .

"The thing I couldn't figure," David confessed, "Was how there always came to be so many crowds wherever we turned up at. 'Before we'd set out, my secret fear had been that we'd arrive these places and outnumber the folks who'd come along to meet us!"

So David was really in for a big surprise. . . . He just hadn't realised how big he was for millions of TV viewers.

As it was, he arrived back home exhausted. "Filming had nothing on it!" he laughed. "I don't reckon there's anything can be such a strain as being in contact with your fans, hour after hour . . . day after day. Of course, it's fantastic in lots of ways. But it does absolutely drain you, 'cos you're giving of yourself all of the time, and there's never a single moment where you can let up and just slump in a corner some place."

As David was already beginning to discover, slumping in corners was a habit he'd have to get out of pretty quickly.

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DON'T MISS PART 46  
OF THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY  
WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE  
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THE DAVID CASSIDY MAGAZINE

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The early days on The Partridge Family were the sweetest (!?) for David. Not only did he learn more about his job but as you can see below, he also went behind the camera.

