

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 46

One of the hardest things for David to face in that first year of so many great changes was something that no one likes to face. After all, if you're coming up for 21 years of age, and all of a sudden you discover that it's no longer enough to be just yourself, but that you must be a star, it can be a bit demanding.

As David says, "I guess that it was about the biggest shock I had when I discovered that I had to be outgoing nearly all the time.

"I mean, like everyone, I have quiet moods. There are times when all I want to do is to relax and think things out for awhile. But there are also times when I want to go places and do things, and meet people."

The big change for David was that, as a public property, he could no longer decide what he was going to do when he wanted to.

BIG SHOCK

It must have been a big shock—just think about it. Only six months before, David had been trying to keep working and developing his talent. His roles in *Ironside* and *Marcus Welby M.D.* had been good experience, but they hadn't subjected him to anything like the rigors of a regular series and a recording career.

But on top of all that, there was the sheer demands of success, not just as a singer and actor, but as a star to be faced.

And that meant meeting the press regularly, at any available moment.

"There weren't all that many moments left available either," David told me. "After all, with the shooting schedule and the recording schedule to consider, it left me just about enough time to have lunch with one reporter and dinner with another.

"And I guess maybe I also had time to squeeze in one interview at breakfast as well!"

At first, the novelty was more than enough to make up for the nuisance. But after a few months of being hounded by journalists and photographers, all asking the same questions and trying to pry secrets out of him, even an easy going guy like David found that he had limits.

The question that bothered him most, of course, was the one about his age. "People kept wanting to know if it bothered me, at 20, playing the role of Keith Partridge, who was only 16."

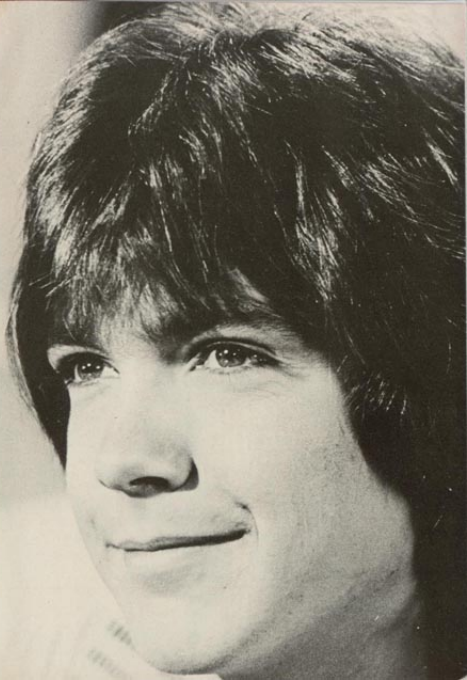
Of course, it didn't at first . . . not until the question had been asked twenty times! But David was quick to defend his decision to play Keith.

"I don't regret playing Keith Partridge. Any actor can tell you that one of the big advantages in a series is being allowed to develop a character.

"Keith was ideal for that. I mean, if you start out with lines like 'Gee mom, can I have the car tonight,' things can only improve!

"But seriously, I think that Keith and I sort of had a lot in common to begin with. Here he was, just a young guy, who all of a sudden is thrown up into the entertainment world.

"Before that, what had he done? He was just a school kid, taking things as they come when, all of a sudden, he becomes a star."



Behind this smile, there was a lot of pain in the early days ▶