

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 48

1 971 had brought David a number of good things. Besides the definite confirmation that he would be working on *The Partridge Family* show for another season—which was pretty good news indeed, there were a few other things that happened in the beginning of that year that gave David some wonderful memories.

You see, regardless of how successful you are in life, it's the human things that matter. And no matter how much success David has the rest of his life, he's no different. Because 1971 will always hold a special place in his heart.

COINCIDENCE

"I know that, whatever happens, I'll never forget my 21st birthday," David told me. "It's not like I had some enormous, fantastic party, with big marquees up on the lawn, and tables and tables of food like the party scenes in *The Great Gatsby*.

"In fact, it was really pretty simple, and quiet. But that doesn't mean it was dull—no way!"

No way is right. You see, David is a pretty complicated guy, but you can always count on him to be true to the people he likes, and those who like him.

David's twenty-first birthday was in keeping with this spirit. His birthday, the 12th of April (just in case you didn't know!) fell on the Monday after Easter.

And that was a lucky coincidence, because it meant that David wouldn't be working. As he told me, "By this time, the days when I wasn't working were pretty few, and far between as well. So it just seemed like an extra special

bonus, to have a holiday *and* my birthday as well. I mean, what better present could I have asked for!"

And there was another big present coming to him, too, although he hadn't really thought too much about it at the time. Under the laws of the State of California, all the money that David had earned before his twenty-first birthday had been put in a trust fund, until he came of age.

This is a hold-over from the early days of film making and child stars in Hollywood, and it's a pretty good idea, too.

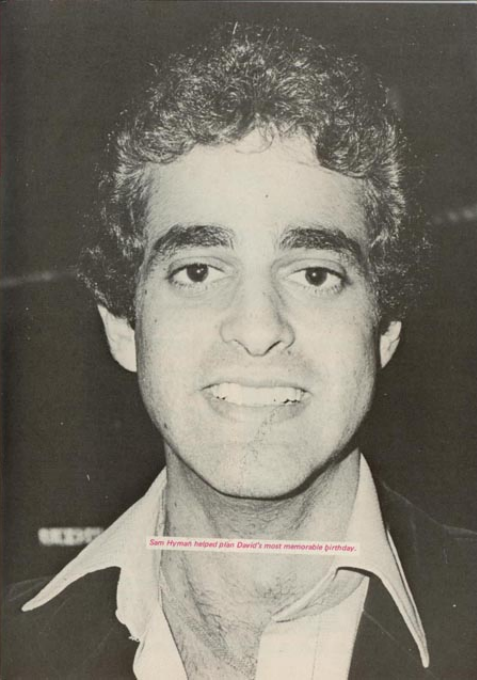
It makes certain that crooked agents and managers can't take advantage of unwary children—not that David had anything to worry about: Ruth Aarons had known him and his father for years, and she would have cheated herself before she cheated David (or anyone else, for that matter).

But all the same, apart from a small allowance of fifty dollars a week, David's earnings from all his previous jobs in show business had been packed carefully away, into the bank, before he ever saw any of it.

That could be pretty tough on someone who was as mature and self-reliant as David, who had to maintain his own house and board, but that was accounted for. And, of course, the studio, well pleased with David's smashing success in *The Partridge Family*, had helped—especially with David's car.

So now, on the 12th of April, 1971, David was in complete control of all his accumulated earnings, plus the interest. And how much did that mean to him? "I don't think I thought too much about it at the time. I mean, I didn't have the time to spend it anyway—in fact, most of the time, I could barely manage to spend my allowance".

That just goes to show you what kind of a guy



Sara Hyman helped plan David's most memorable birthday.