

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 2

BY the time he was three years old, David had no doubts at all about what he wanted to do with his life.

In fact, Evelyn Ward, his mother, can't remember a time when David didn't want to go into show business. He always just assumed that that was what he would do when he grew up! She recalls one specific occasion when he was three years old; he came running in from the garden one day, planted a kiss on her cheek and informed her that he was going to be a singer! Just like that!

She hadn't the heart to question it at the time or to say anything that might discourage her son in the career he'd mapped out for himself. But secretly, in her heart, she thought it might well prove to be merely a phase that he would pass through.

After all, she reasoned, nearly all the grown-ups David knew then were either singers or actors – even his grandmother had been a concert singer. So it was only natural that little David would see himself following in the footsteps of his parents and their friends. This sort of life was the limit of his horizon at that time.

You see, although Evelyn realised that David must have something of show biz in his blood, she thought that things would change a bit once he started going to school. She could imagine him hearing all his pals talking about what their Dads did for a living and David getting caught up in the new magic of one or other of these careers.

Of course, we have a big advantage over Evelyn on this point, because we already know how things turned out! David never changed his mind – no matter how many other ways of life he

heard about. It was still the world of show business, of acting and music, which held his imagination and focused his ambitions.

And by the time he was at high school, his Mom had finally realised that, if this was a passing phase, it was taking an uncannily long time to pass!

But this is jumping the gun a bit and drifting years ahead of the three-year-old boy playing happily round the house and garden – singing even then, as he played.

This must have been one of the happiest and most carefree times of David's life. He was such a happy, cheerful child, in fact, that his mother gave him the nickname of 'Smilin' Sam'. It has stuck with him over all these years and she still calls him Smilin' Sam occasionally even now. It is just one of the many wonderful signs of the strong bond of affection between David and his mother. It has always existed and seems to grow stronger with every year that passes.

Extra Treat

Looking back, Evelyn remembers how, when David was little, he used to save up all his pocket money to buy Birthday presents for his Mum and Dad. It was quite a struggle because his Dad's Birthday on 5th May was followed very quickly by his mother's on the 21st! That must have seemed like a very expensive month for David in those days!

There was always one extra treat they could be sure of too – which didn't cost any money at all . . . David would sing 'Happy Birthday' to each of them – and that was something that money just couldn't buy anyway!

Evelyn and Jack used to worry a little

