



David and Susan grew to be very close by the time this episode was filmed early in the second season

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 49

It started simply enough. No one could have guessed in the early stages that those minor and occasional pains that David began to suffer during the summer of 1971 would grow to the proportions that they eventually did.

Least of all David.

As he says, "They started off as the sort of pains that you get from not having eaten, or from having eaten too fast.

STOMACH PAINS

"And in those days, neither was an unusual experience for me!

"But after awhile, I began to notice that they came more often. They weren't really regular, or even severe at first, but it wasn't too long before I began to be a bit worried about them."

When you think of all the things that stomach pains might mean, things like cancer and ulcers, it made pretty good sense to have second thoughts about any pain or ailment that keeps coming back.

"Even so," David admitted, "there were so many other things to think about besides my own little complaints. I just waited around and waited around, promising myself that I would go to the doctor—but always the next day."

When you think about it, David really did have quite a lot on his plate besides these occasional twinges. There was a season of shows to finish, a strict recording schedule to follow, and a mountain of concerts and personal appearances to fulfill.

Even so, David would have been more than justified in calling a halt to any of his personal commitments, especially when you consider

that old proverb—"a stitch in time saves nine." As it was, one good early stitch might have saved a whole lot more than nine!

But that's getting ahead of the actual story. As I said before, the pains were really pretty mild at the beginning. David was wrapped up in the beginning of his second season as a Partridge.

The plan was that they would shoot a third of the shows between June and August, then break for a month, partly as a holiday and partly as a chance to promote the show with personal appearances. Then they would go back to work until Christmas, when another break was scheduled. Finally, they would wrap it all up between February and May.

In practical terms, this was the best way for everybody.

It meant that the studio sound stages and sets would be getting the maximum use—during the time the Partridges were away, the space would be allocated to another show, or perhaps for the filming of a Christmas special.

It was also, at least at a first look, a pretty good way for the actors and the rest of the company.

Although it meant that they would be working long and hard hours, it also meant that they could count on a chance to unwind during August, which is one of the hottest months of the year in Hollywood. And it also meant that they could all spend the Christmas and New Year with their families.

GALL BLADDER

That was important to everyone. So it seemed to be perfect... except for one, slight problem which no one was able to calculate.

That was David's gall bladder. "Of course," he told me, "I had hoped that