

# THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 53

**T**he pressures really began to close in on David in 1971. He'd had an exhilarating but exhausting Spring, packed with personal appearance trips which had taken him pretty well the length and breadth of the U.S.A. It seemed like he was forever being rushed to the airport on a Friday night to catch the midnight plane out from L.A. to some far-flung place. Some of the trips were for concerts, but in the main the idea was that it'd give David a chance to meet with some of his hundreds of thousands of fans who were dying to see him in the flesh.

It was ironic really. The whole plan was for David and his fans to get together. But, as he points out: "Then, when we got there, everybody spent all their time keeping the girls at a distance!"

## SAFETY

Of course, it was for David's sake, and for the safety of everyone involved, and he realised that. But he still couldn't help from feeling upset about it sometimes. Like the time when David—not to mention the local authorities—got such a surprise in Cleveland, Ohio.

Brendan Cahill had organised the whole trip. It was a 'Meet The Partridge Family' affair, with Susan and Danny along, as well as David himself. The main event of the visit was to be a big reception at a local Department Store, where the stars would be able to sign autographs, chat

and generally mingle with their fans.

But, even before David's plane had touched down, the organisers had realised that they were going to have to revise this schedule.

The airport was mobbed by upwards of 20,000 fans! There had been nothing like it since the Beatles, and the security precautions just weren't on the same scale...

It was decided that there would be too much risk in letting the reception go ahead as planned, so it was cancelled altogether. There was just one slight problem: David, Susan and Danny had travelled 1500 miles to meet the people of Cleveland... It seemed an awful long way to come in order to stay barricaded behind locked doors all the time! Then somebody had a brain-wave... And the Partridges ended up riding round Cleveland in an antique fire-truck!

"You see," David explained, "They reckoned that it had to be something pretty tough, 'cos it's amazing the amount of pressure a few thousand fans can exert when they're all pressing inward towards the same point. And it also had to be open, because we didn't want to just wave at folks through glass windows. And, sure enough, the fire-truck fitted the bill both ways!"

Well, you've got to admit, it was different—and the photographers loved it!

So did David. But the strain was telling. He knew very well that many of those 20,000 people had come—maybe for miles—to see him. And he felt a tremendous responsibility to them. Somehow, however rough he might happen to feel, he had to be out there smiling, waving and signing autographs with the screams and cheers ringing in his ears. He could feel how much it meant to each one of those individuals. And so he'd give and give of

