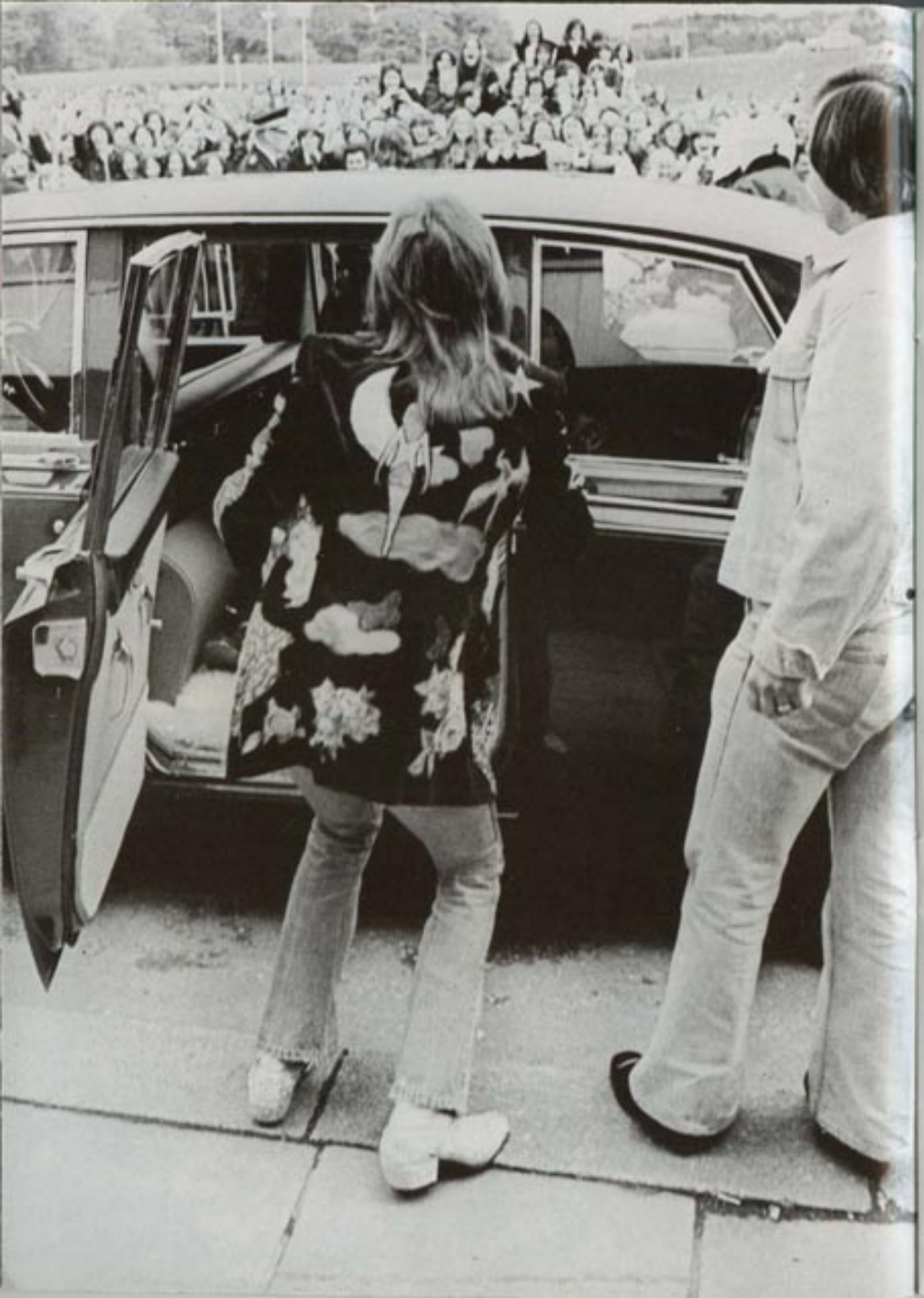

Looking back, David figures that the fight to retain his own identity had quite a lot to do with the bouts of frustration and exhaustion which struck him from time to time during the next couple of years.

Eventually, he would win through—largely, he feels, thanks to his music. You see, his role as Keith pretty well tied him up as far as acting went, so he couldn't break the pattern by landing a contrasting part and proving his versatility as an actor that way.

As a musician, however, it was soon becoming obvious that David Cassidy was rapidly taking over from Keith Partridge. He was already recording solo and breaking away from the typical 'Partridge' material. And his live concert appearances clinched it. Although David was still on the road to finding his musical footing, he was starting to develop a style of performance entirely his own.

Most of the numbers on the show—certainly in the early days—were pretty static. The camera moved from one member of the group to another, usually lingering as long as possible on David—but there was hardly anything visually exciting about the song sequences.

David's live act changed all that. He moved—and how! It was virtually impossible to separate movement from music . . . Somehow, it seemed like his body was actually *becoming* the music. And, of course, his audiences loved it.

Tickets for David's concerts were almost like gold dust, the only difference being that most American girls, given the choice, would have taken a ticket in preference any day!

So David's life through the summer of '72 took on something of a Jekyll and Hyde quality. Monday to Friday he turned up on set as Keith Partridge. Come Friday evenings he'd slough off his 'Keith' skin and step aboard a plane bound for maybe New York, Chicago, Illinois—it could be any place—and, as *David*, he'd give two or three concerts before the time came to head back to L.A.

He reckoned it was worth it. But it was a back-breaking, voice-breaking schedule and it was obvious that the constant strain would eventually lead to total exhaustion. David's pretty certain it would have done so an awful lot earlier if it hadn't been for Steve Alsberg, his road manager.

A "David's eye-view" of his fans during his last world tour

David was already a star, but it had all happened so quickly that he'd missed out on the tough years of experience which would have fed him with all the know-how. Steve, on the other hand, seven years older than David, had acquired plenty of experience in his time. He'd already roadie'd for Three Dog Night, The Turtles and several other big groups, so he knew all the ropes and, with him aboard, David could rest easy that everything would run without a hitch.

Even so, he had plenty to worry about. He was having to adapt to all sorts of very different stadiums, halls and arenas—some indoors, but many out of doors too. Some only held a couple of thousand spectators, but more often they were vast places, where David felt he must look like a small insect to the girls right at the back!

As for him, well, he could distinguish individual faces for a few rows; then, after that, it became more like a sea of human bodies—quite a contrast to the intimacy of the studio camera! But David was in no doubt as to which he preferred.

DELIGHTED FANS

His fans, of course, were delighted. They were having chances to see David in the flesh which his British fans were still thirsting for . . . In fact, this was just about the time when British girls were actually having to fight the BBC for the right to see their idol on the TV screen, let alone live!

Fan feeling in Britain was mounting and was really piling on the pressure to get more of David in every way. As a result, a separate David Cassidy Fan Club was set up in June. And at the same time a new magazine was launched to cover David and only David . . .

Of course—The David Cassidy Mag!

Things were starting to look up. All that was needed now was for David to make that promised return trip to Britain. And then the longed-for date was finally released . . . Come September, David would be back!

DON'T MISS PART 57 OF THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE JULY ISSUE.