



THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 59

The remainder of David's September '72 trip to Europe stayed true to form. When he wasn't in front of cameras or microphones, it seemed he was constantly being bundled into or out of some plane or limousine. Departure times, interviews, receptions and personal appearances succeeded one another relentlessly.

Except for the few hours of sleep he managed to snatch each night, David was 'on show' more or less all the time. Whereas he would normally reckon on being able to catch up on it during any plane trip, so he could reserve his energies for the demands upcoming at the other end... even that slight respite was out this time around. 'Cos during his lightning trip to Amsterdam and Frankfurt he soon discovered that, if he figured on slumping, it'd have to be in public. It was a case of 'wherever David Cassidy went, the journalists came too'.

It was enough to drive him to a paranoiac frenzy. But, amazingly, he seemed to hold out and to have a smile ready at all the right moments. More recently he'd made it clear that this degree of public exposure has certainly taken its toll on him. But, at the time, you wouldn't have guessed — unless you'd seen David on the rare occasions when his exhaustion went through and he looked completely shattered and fed up with the whole business.

Fortunately, his day's filming in Stanmore for the BBC Top of the Pops Special seemed to revive him a little and allowed him to build up some energy for the gruelling schedule ahead of him. He genuinely seems to have enjoyed that day. After the constant bustle and swarms of people, it was soothingly peaceful there. Besides, he had some fun proving that you

don't have to be a 'true blue Britisher' to wield a croquet mallet with ease and mastery!

But all good things, as they say, come to an end. David had to leave Stanmore for a reception to be given in his honour. And three days later he had to leave Britain for a return to the Partridge Family.

Rumours were already rife that David was restless and was hoping to break away from his Partridge Family rut soon. So far he had made no statement to confirm those rumours, although his answers to questions on this topic had been pretty guarded. But it was quite clear that David felt his talents, both as an actor and as a singer, were having to mark time while he remained associated with the character of a teenager.

EXPERIENCE

With 'Rock Me, Baby', he was really starting to feel his musical feet and he was afraid that the Partridge musical 'packages' might hamper his personal style. Certainly his association with the show was a mixed blessing as far as what he now calls the 'real' David Cassidy went.

"The image of Keith," he explains, "was one of youth and naivety. There was I, in my twenties and with a life-time of experience gained on the road and in the grit of show business. Sure, I was no old man — yet! But I was no fresh-faced innocent kid either."

Nevertheless, it suited Screen Gems to present David as a more romanticised version of 'the guy next door' and, once they figured his appeal to teenagers, they constantly aimed to project him to the teenage market — even to the exclusion of all others. So it was that David became the great Superstar teenage idol of the early '70's. And ran the risk of becoming the Peter Pan of teenagers... the boy who'd never be allowed to grow up.