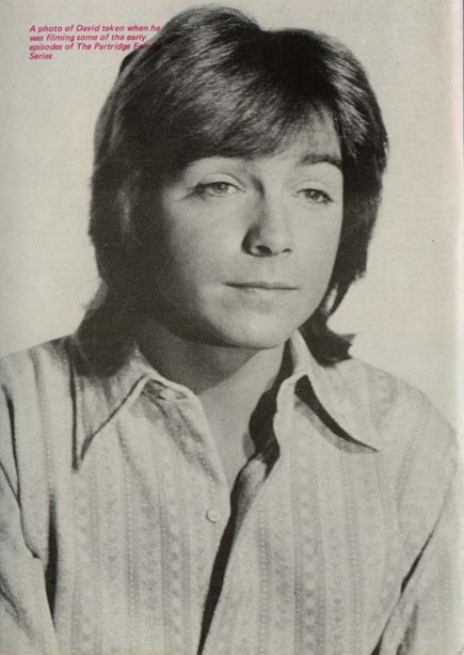


A photo of David taken when he was filming some of the early episodes of *The Partridge Family Series*



THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 60

That was the eye-catching, heart-stopping head-line that blazed out above an interview feature with David printed in *The Sun* newspaper on Monday, June 18, 1973.

A wave of frenzied anxiety mingled with disbelief swept the nation's DC fans. Only three months before David had been among them, and many a fan had felt that she'd had the experience of a life-time just watching him perform in concert. Now, suddenly, it looked as though that brief taste of ecstasy was all they were going to get.

The message seemed to be: no more David, ever.

At first everyone kept hoping... It wouldn't be the first time a newspaper or magazine article had got it wrong. But soon there could be no more doubts. David confirmed that he wanted 'to get away from it all', that he was finally and irrevocably ending his contract with Screen Gems. Nevertheless, there was always a strong implication that his wouldn't be for ever, but was only going to be a temporary stalling device till he could get his bearings again.

Some of his fans lost interest pretty soon. This is not to say that they hadn't been absolutely devoted to David before; it's just that they felt they couldn't idolise a memory and a hope. They needed someone they could watch in action, someone here and now whom they could follow on the road.

David understood that. He realised it would inevitably happen. In fact, he was rather more surprised at the vast numbers of fans who kept faithful, who continued to write to him and send him cards and presents during his self-imposed exile from the world of superstardom.

As he explained, "The American pop scene

doesn't really lead you to expect that. Over here, you're very much 'here today, gone tomorrow'. You know the old idea of 'The king is dead, long live the king.' Well that's pretty well the way it is." David knew that, by quitting when he was way out on top, he was risking being dead and buried as a pop star within a matter of months.

But the records were still being issued — even if David didn't have much say in some cases. And many of his fans waited patiently. There was little, if any, bitterness among them; few accusations of their idol 'deserting' them or playing them false.

The mood was one of generosity. They recognised that David had been driven too hard and that he needed a real and complete break. Especially after his various 'farewell' appearances, culminating of course in that unforgettable World Tour of '74.

FINDING HIMSELF

Naturally, they missed him and there was nothing they'd have loved more than to have David back among them. But not if it meant renewing the pressures on him which he'd finally fought to escape. They had faith that he'd come back when he was ready. And time has proved them absolutely right on this, as on so many other things.

They knew he was figuring on 'finding himself' and escaping his former image; but they also knew that he would not change fundamentally — that the qualities they had loved and admired in him would still be there. His dedication, his humanity, his honesty, his sense of humour and, last but not least, his sex appeal.

Meanwhile, David set about breaking with the