



Shirley Jones, David Cassidy, Susan Dey and Danny Bonaduce looking a bit worried as they get ready to shoot this scene, back in 1973

past in every way he could. It was almost like reverting to adolescence. Just like everyone — including David — feels the need to break with their childhood and escape the protective shell of home, David now felt he had to shatter the shell of his image, so he could get back outside of it and breathe freely again.

## FLOURISH

And just like so many teenagers of today, he added a few dramatic touches. But, whereas most young guys have recently had to fight their parents in the cause of long hair, David upped and had his snipped off.

Same kind of protest: just a different answer.

After that came a calmer stage of re-assessment. He'd made the big flourish; he could now look in the mirror and re-assure himself that he was different, that he was making headway against the image.

He felt he wanted to start again on a clean sheet, to expose any feature of his past success that he considered founded on sham and pretense.

That was why he started writing. He wanted to tell his story as it had really been, and not like

the publicists had chosen to present it. So, during those weeks quietly spent at home or in Hawaii, David began drafts for his 'book.' It wasn't to be exactly an autobiography, because he didn't intend to review his entire life. He figured, for one thing, that it had already been done too often before!

Instead he planned to concentrate on those periods or events in his life that had been most open to misinterpretation. He put in, for instance, the real reasons why he didn't like working in the Partridge Family; and he'd got plenty of stories about what really happened when he was on the road, which he reckoned would be loaded with surprises for a lot of people.

In all, he spent quite a long while thinking about and actually writing material for the projected book. But he doesn't reckon on publishing in the near future. Certainly it's possible that his initial eagerness for quick publication sprang from mixed motives and that a lingering bitterness may have played a part. He wanted to hit back, with the truth, at the people he figured had made him live a lie for several years.

He's got past that stage now and plans to hold the book back for a while at least. Since those early months of temporary 'retirement'

he's come to see the whole thing more objectively and realise that everyone's got his own job to do. David doesn't want to hurt anyone unnecessarily, so it seems like the Cassidy revelations will be staying in manuscript form for some time to come.

## NO HANG-UPS

Anyway, it's arguable that they've served their purpose. Writing about the things that have bugged him in his years as a superstar, David got them out of his system. And that's meant that he could return to the same scene but as a rather different person: one without hang-ups, who's going to stand or fall by his own ideas, feeling and ideals. I think it's fair to say that no-one's going to have much chance of 'moulding' David in the future except for the man himself — which is just as it should be.

In the near future we can look forward to a follow-up album to *The Higher They Climb The Harder They Fall*, because David's already well into work on his next. If all goes well, that long-

promised full length movie should eventually make its appearance too. David's constantly reading scripts and plot outlines and quite a few are now coming in specifically written with David in mind, which sounds hopeful. Some-time, soon, the right thing's just got to turn up. But David's prepared to wait indefinitely; and he's going to be saying a very firm 'no' until he's absolutely sure.

Because the first rule in this latest, current phase of the David Cassidy story is that he's not going to be hurried or hassled into anything. He'll be judging the right time, place and the right material — for himself.

In fact, he's quite obviously staying cool and in command. You see, from now on, David Cassidy won't just be writing the songs. He'll also be calling all the tunes. The David Cassidy story doesn't end here . . .

It'll be continued — the way David wants it to go.



And here's one lucky girl who managed to share a hug with David during a break from filming

