



### Continued.....

In September 1971 a show called the Partridge Family was on our British TV screens. Before very long it was obvious that we'd found that enormous star in a shy, brown-haired, gorgeous looking American boy whose heart-breaking features, warm brown eyes and expressive singing voice reached straight for our souls. The Partridge Family did well in Britain but mostly on the strength of David's part in them, so when his solo record 'Cherish' was released here in May 1972, we all knew that David was what we had been waiting for.

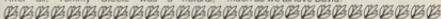
At last we had someone we could dream about who, although he lived thousands of miles across the Atlantic, we could still believe we might meet one day face to face. He was real, he was flesh and blood, he dressed in the sort of clothes any boy might wear, denim jeans and nice shirts. His hair followed current trends but was never extreme. When most boys were wearing their hair long, David's was long, but not too long, just down to his shoulders. When other boys started cutting their hair extremely short, David had had his cut, too, but not so short that he looked like an escaped convict!

### IDENTIFY

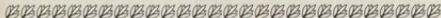
Musically, David covered two fields. There were the songs he sang that were written for him by top songwriters and there were the songs he'd written himself, that let us know just a bit more about his innermost thoughts. When David's dog Kula died, we all felt the pain he must have been feeling. When anything particularly good happened, like David receiving a gold disc, we all felt happy along with him. David, perhaps more than any other star, was someone we could identify with as a person and admire totally as a musician.

He was young, he was sexier than someone like Cliff Richard but not in the outrageous way Elvis was. He wasn't trying to set any amazing fashion trends or try anything new out on stage, he was just himself.

If David had happened along in the 1950's he might possibly have managed to be a big star. After all, Tommy Steele was a natural,



David seems to be undecided about purchasing this particular item of clothing while shopping at Brown's, the famous London fashion store.



unaffected boy who made it. But the world really wasn't ready for someone who played a lot of instruments extremely well and wrote their own songs!

The singer/songwriter period, where people expressed their innermost feelings and could walk on stage dressed in jeans rather than gold lame, didn't happen until the Sixties, so David's natural kind of music and on stage personality couldn't really have caught on until the path had been prepared for him by people like the Beatles, the Beachboys and James Taylor. These musicians took music away from the 'moon in June' thing and wrote about things which were happening now, using their imaginations to express emotional states in a new way. This period also saw the emergence of very talented musicians who had maybe been inspired to play by people like Bo Diddley or the Shadows and by now were extremely good indeed on guitar, bass or drums.

### ULTRA MODERN

After all these breakthroughs in music, plus the new wave of 'realism' in films and on TV, the time was ripe for an ultra modern type of star, a person who reflected the youth of his time like they really were, a person who was believable, yet good-looking enough to make thousands of girls sigh over him, a person with a great singing voice who sang songs we could all understand. And that person was David. He happened at exactly the right time, when the world was ready for him.

Who knows what kind of scenes we'll all be into in ten years from now? Maybe space-rock will have taken over. Perhaps concerts will be performed not from stages but from platforms suspended in the air. Maybe incredible new instruments will have been invented that we can't possibly imagine. Perhaps David himself will carry on adapting to all these changes and we'll still be hearing him sing in 1985!

But whatever happens, nobody can deny the fact that David came along just when we needed him and the world was ready. And no matter how much audiences love their favourite star in 1985, they couldn't possibly love him as much as we all love David!