

# THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 10

David was still hunting around for a jalopy cheap enough to take the place of his 'Olds', when the next summer vacation came around.

He had been counting the days during the last, long weeks of term. That was nothing to write home about . . . One of David's main exercises in school was counting the days to the next weekend, half-holiday or vacation! But, as it happened, this time it was something rather special, because Evelyn and David planned to spend this vacation back in West Orange. So the extra excitement at the thought of seeing his beloved grandpa and grandma again added to that marvellous feeling of freedom as he walked out of Hamilton High's grounds for the very last time and raced home to start packing for the trip back East.

## ABSOLUTE TURMOIL

For a couple of days the house was in absolute turmoil: half filled trunks and bags were littered round the place, where David had started packing, with the best of intentions — only to break off in the middle when he remembered a record he simply had to go buy or when Sam (the dog, not the friend!) had reminded him that it was time to go for a walk!

Sam was really spoiled that week, because David knew how miserable he'd be at being left behind and he wanted to make up for it as far as he could by playing with Sam a whole more than usual. He knew it was no good trying to explain to a dog that they were only going for a vacation and that they'd be back again in no time . . .

Even so, David remembers sitting there, talking earnestly to Sam as though

the little dog, with his head cocked alertly on one side, could understand every word he was saying!

On the more practical side, David had arranged for Sam to stay with a close friend of his and, during those last few days before he left, the three of them spent a lot of time together, so that Sam would get used to the idea.

Of course, Sam still pined for David — even after all this. But he was given V.I.P. treatment right through that vacation, so he was made as happy as possible, and David could enjoy himself with complete peace of mind.

And that sure was some vacation! In fact, you could say it was a turning point in David's life, because it was during that summer in New Jersey that he made the first positive step towards fulfilling his acting and singing ambitions.

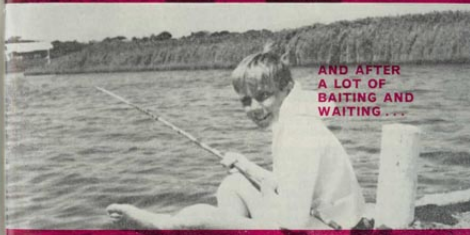
For some time now Evelyn had been convinced that David had more than an ordinary talent. But she was also well aware that, as his mother, her judgement could well be biased. So she decided to get a third-party verdict from someone whose opinion she respected even more than her own.

She took David to her old voice coach, Jim Gregory, who was still working in New Jersey. Evelyn reckoned that she owed a large part of her own success to the help and advice she'd had from Jim in the past, and she knew that — if David had any real potential at all — Jim was the man to spot it and bring it out.

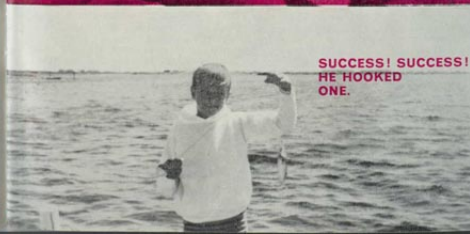
Jim was impressed. Very impressed. It's quite likely that he agreed to see David in the first place largely as a favour to Evelyn. Because his time was very valuable and he didn't make a habit of auditioning young hopefuls — however



IN AUGUST '63  
DAVID WENT  
SEA FISHING . . .



AND AFTER  
A LOT OF  
BAITING AND  
WAITING . . .



SUCCESS! SUCCESS!  
HE HOOKED  
ONE.