

DAVID CASSIDY

(Continued from page 52)

until now. This is David's own story. Where he's been. Where he's going. What he wants out of life. What he expects to contribute.

The moment you meet him, you realize that here's a young man who was destined to become a success in show business, family or no family. When he talks non-stop, punctuating his remarks with that fabulous shy grin, looking at you through hazel eyes that mirror a very special brand of maturity, you fall immediately under his spell!

He looks taller than 5-foot-8, perhaps because he's so slim in his brown leather jacket, black shirt and jeans. Talking about himself is still very new to David, but he starts out logically enough, "I was born on April 12, 1950, at 10 A.M. in the Little Flower Hospital in New York City, but I don't remember a thing that happened until I was seventeen months old—when I was in a baby carriage, rolling downhill!

"For the first time, I felt fear. I also remember just feeling that I was *alive*. This all happened in West Orange, New Jersey. The girl next door used to take me out for an airing. Fortunately—the day the carriage ran downhill—she was able to run even faster! She caught me in time.

"The next thing I remember was when I was around 3 years old. My mother and father and I moved to Rutherford, New Jersey, where we lived for two years. I had a friend there whose name was Hal. The most vivid memory I have about him was that he hit me in the head with a golf club! I was 5 . . . and my head was out to *here*," David gestures dramatically. "It was a big traumatic thing.

"Of course, Hal didn't mean to do it—we were just fooling around. But it was a Sunday. We couldn't find a doctor, so the police came and helped. They took me someplace and I had to have all these stitches taken. Everybody was very upset, including me . . . but I recovered.

"I guess I should back up a bit and tell you that my mother's maiden name was Evelyn Ward. She was a singer, dancer and actress on Broadway. Later on, she did lots of TV work. My parents originally met when they were working together in the chorus of a Broadway show. After they married, they continued doing shows together and my father became a big success. I guess the first big thing he did was when I was 3—a musical play called *Wish You Were Here*. After that, he was really well-known!

Not "show biz" parents

"My mother, Evelyn Ward, continued doing smaller parts on Broadway and in summer stock. In 1958, she replaced Gwen Verdon in *New Girl In Town*. She's a wonderful woman. She has always been just my mother, not a *show business* mother. My father was the same—with them, I always came first. When I was real little, it was a great life. We lived on the outskirts of town, in a suburban atmosphere.

"As a kid, I was also very close to my

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