

errupted, and began auditioning for TV parts. Luck and his own natural talents were on his side and he was offered a leading role in an episode of "Ironside." Although the part didn't include any music, it was in TV and he thought it might be just what he needed. It was.

Now David's a successful star of a weekly TV series. He's using all his talents—including song-writing—and couldn't be happier. But the best part is he did it all on his own, through honest hard work. Maybe the most shocking thing about David Cassidy's fantastic rise to fame is that it's not so very shocking at all.

MEET MARK LESTER'S FAMILY

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the age of four, though he doesn't remember much about it now. In the meantime, he'd learned to talk when he was only eighteen months old. And by the time he was five, he was reading bedtime stories to Davina.

Mark's parents often help him practice his lines, although usually Mark's got them memorized simply by reading them over a couple of times.

"They're very encouraging parents," he says. "They always tell me when they think I've done a good job at something."

Mark's father also helps with the business end of his career. Most of Mark's earnings are in trust for him until he's older, and Mike Lester sees that it's being well managed. Mark isn't very interested in money yet (except for hankering after a car), so he's glad he doesn't have to worry about what happens to his salaries. He'd much rather spend his time having fun.

And his parents try their best to see that he does just that—that is, grow up just like any other boy and not feel "special" or privileged just because he's an actor. As far as allowance goes, Mark gets under a dollar, which he usually spends on comic books and candy. As far as friends go, Mark's best ones are his school mates. When he's working in a film, he has to have a tutor on the set, of course. But when he's not acting, he goes to the Tower House Boys' School. And when he's there, he's just the same as everyone else.

Mark spends a lot of time playing with his friends—in the backyard or on the ball field. Sometimes they enjoy picnicking along the banks of the nearby Thames River or taking a boat ride on it. That's something Mark often does with his family, too.

Mark's father tries to accompany Mark wherever he goes to make a movie. But Mark's always glad to return home to the rest of his family and his friends and his home and the things he loves there. And it's no wonder!

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