



**I LIKE PLAYING KEITH** on "The Partridge Family," because the character is very much like me! I can be myself most of the time!

#### SHOW BIZ FAMILY

Both my parents are in show business, and there was quite a long theatrical tradition in our family. I wasn't "born in a trunk," but I could have been, if it had worked out that way! Show business ran in my veins from the very beginning, and I'll always be glad of it!

Both my parents were musical talents. My mother was a singer and a dancer, and the name she went under was Evelyn Ward. She studied classical music and everything like that when she was younger, and she even had classes in Carnegie Hall! She liked the musical stage more, though, and that's where she finally decided to do her work. She was in lots of plays, and she knew what it was to tour all over the country bringing entertainment to the people. I guess it isn't really like that anymore, but when my mother tells me about it, it all seems very real, and I can almost smell the greasepaint!

#### MY DAD, JACK

My father, Jack Cassidy, was in musical theatre too, although he wasn't anything like the star he is today. He was sort of a young leading man, the one who always gets the prettiest love song and winds up with the girl. He was on his way though, and everyone sort of knew it—even though he sometimes went from a hit Broadway play to long months of unemployment!

I guess that the one bad thing about both my parents being in show business was that it meant that they were separated for long periods of time. My mother had to get something really *good* before she'd leave the home and go to work, but my father had to be the breadwinner, and that meant that he was frequently on long tours, and I remember that it was always *special* when my father was home. Of course, I couldn't see it at the time, because I was too young, but I know now that these separations and all those distances weren't good for their marriage.

#### ALWAYS LIKED BUSINESS

Because my parents were in show business, it's impossible for me to say when I first decided what I wanted to do. My mother tells me that I wanted to be a performer my whole life, and I can't remember any time when that wasn't true—the tradition was so strong all around me. I think that the first time I ever said it *out loud* was when I was about three years old. My mother told me that I could do whatever I wanted—*after* I finished high school. She probably thought I'd forget!

But I have a really good memory, and that's always helped me with my acting. I can remember things so far back in my childhood that it totally amazes my mother! It can be a little embarrassing, because *every* parent says something to her kid once in a while, just to put him off, and the parent *never* expects that the kid will remember. But *I* do, ho, ho, ho!



**FROM THE TIME I WAS THREE** I wanted to be an actor, but my parents always told me to wait and see. When I grew up I still had the bug!

#### MY FIRST MEMORY

I can even remember before I could walk. My very first memory is an incident that must have happened when I was about eighteen months old! It was almost my *last* memory, too, because the story of David Cassidy could very easily have come to an end right then!

I suppose it was the fear that printed the experience on me so vividly. My mother must have been working or rehearsing, because I was in a baby carriage and this strange girl—a babysitter—was pushing it. I can remember looking up at the trees, seeing green and the blue of the sky.

Like all babysitters, mine was taking advantage of the time to talk to her boyfriend, and she wasn't really paying much attention to me. We were on a downhill slope, and the next thing I knew, I saw her face disappear, and I felt the carriage start to roll down the hill!

I tell you, I was *scared!* The carriage was bumping along faster and faster, and I finally used my celebrated lungs and let out a good, healthy, terrified YELL! That piercing sound caught the attention of the boyfriend, and he sprinted down and caught me, but *wow!* Even looking back it frightens me!

Well, that's about all the baby-bottle memories I can summon up *this* time, but I'll be right back here in this very space next month to tell you more about "YOUNG DAVID CASSIDY." Sounds like a movie title, doesn't it? Next time, I'll tell you all about my first crush! See you then!