A TLETTER FROM DAVID CASSIDY

In this exclusive monthly column for FaVE, David Cassidy will answer letters he gets from you! Send your questions to: Letter for David Cassidy, 1800 N. Highland Ave., Suite 600, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

Hi!

When FaVE suggested I do a monthly column, I thought it was an exciting idea. But now that the time has come for me to write my first one, I've got cold feet! You know how it is when you've got a lot to say and then it's your turn to talk and you can't think of anything to say. That's why I decided to do this like a letter, because it seems more personal somehow!

If somebody asked me a few months ago what I enjoyed doing in my spare time, I would have said playing my guitar and listening to music. There are lots of other things too, but those are the main ones. I would give the same answer today, but now I have to add one more, which is reading letters from you!

Even though "The Partridge Family" isn't on the air yet, I've been amazed by the mail from my guest appearances on shows like "Bonanza," "Mod Squad," and so on. Although I read every letter, I know I'll never be able to write back to all of you at once, so I'll answer as many questions as I can in this column every month!

One thing you ask me a lot (although it's put a hundred different ways) is what it's like to be David Cassidy. I'm not so sure that's an easy one to answer! As an actor and a musician, I'm pretty self-confident, but I also know I'm learning more all the time. As a person, I tend to be shy around people I don't know too well, and I'm more at ease with my old friends. That's why I'm happy to be writing to you, because we'll get to know each other and I'd like to think you will be my friends too.

My life has changed a lot recently, that's for sure! Although you won't be seeing the first show until September 25th, we've been working on it for months now. In addition to that, there have been promotional tours for both the show and our new record, "I Think I Love You."

Shirley Jones and I just got back from a tour, as a matter of fact. She's my mom on the show and in real life she's my stepmother. We get along fabulously, and it was fun traveling together, but boy, was I tired when I got back home! The trip was mainly to get the record moving with radio stations across the country. It's only been out a couple of weeks now and I do hope you like it!

On top of this and the filming, we've been cutting a second single. It's called "On the Road" and that's going to be out soon too! I love being so busy, but now it seems I have less and less time. The things I miss most are staying up all night in jam sessions with my friends, and seeing my family (although now I see Shirley more than ever)!

When I get some time off, I'm going to spend lots of it getting more furniture for my new house because it's still pretty bare, and I'm hoping to also catch up a little on my sleep!

I really don't like getting up early in the morning, and I think that's the hardest thing I've had to get used to! I'm still half-asleep when I arrive at the Columbia Ranch where most of the show is filmed. (We're working on the same sound stage that "Here Comes the Brides" used for interiors.)

Sometimes when I arrive, there's a group of girls out by the gate, and if I'm on time, I talk to them for a while. I'll bet they wouldn't recognize me with my eyes wide open!

During the short breaks between rehearing and taping, or when I'm not in a scene, I'm in my trailer going over lines, being interviewed or reading mail. I stay in casual clothes as long as possible, because once I get into costume (which is often the red velvet suit all the Partridges perform in) I've got to be extra careful not to get messed up.

All in all, it's a very busy, hectic life. Everything is happening so fast it's a little scary! I think the show and our music are good, but the important thing is that you enjoy us. I hope you'll write soon and tell me what you think! I'll be talking to you next month...