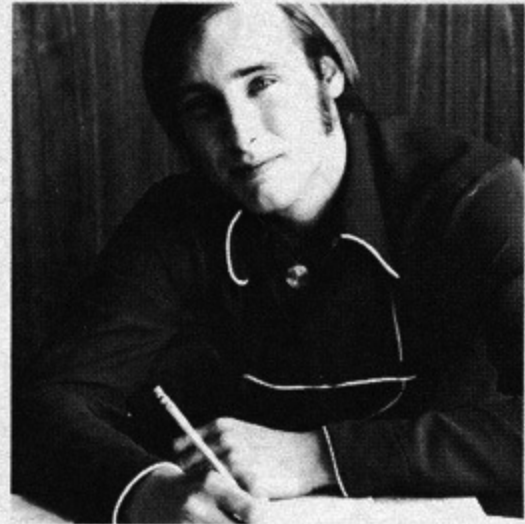


# The David Cassidy I Know!

By Richard Levinson

**EXCLUSIVE IN FaVE: Here is the final chapter of a series of stories about David as told by his very best friend at Hamilton High School! This month, Richard talks about David's very first professional appearance and how it changed his life!**



## Part III

During the years that Dave and I were best buddies, we were as close as brothers. Because we saw so much of each other, I began to realize that he had another side that he seldom showed to anyone.

The Dave his friends knew was no different from the other members of our club, the Chaparrels. Maybe he was a little quieter, but he was just as carefree and full of fun as everyone else. In fact, we spent so much time with girls, cars and parties that sometimes I wonder how we fit in school!

But once in a while, I'd be with Dave when he was in a more serious mood. That's when he'd talk about what he wanted to do with his life. There was no doubt in his mind that he was going to be an actor. I'd kid around with him about it, but I knew he meant what he said, because Dave never said anything just to talk!

### DAVE'S BAND

Shortly after Dave joined the club, he got together a few other guys and formed a band. It was just sort of a hobby with him, and I don't even think he had any special name for them. But it was a good group, and they always played for our parties and socials.

Every year, when some of our members graduated, we would give a big dance at the Sportsmen's Lodge. Dave would get his drums down there and his band would entertain for the evening. He would sing, too, and I've got to say that he didn't sound anything like he does today! But he was always cool and casual—I never saw him get nervous about anything, especially performing in front of his friends!

Dave's interest in music kept growing along with his ambition to become an actor. We used to go

out to a lot of the small clubs on Sunset to hear different combos because he knew a lot of the people there. I think that's when he first began to get involved with the show business scene. He could sit for hours and rap with them about music, soaking in everything just like a sponge.

I always went along because it was fun (and a good way to meet more girls!) but I began to see that Dave was really getting into it. I think now that I was too close to him then to realize what was going to happen in only a short time. In his own quiet, determined way, Dave was working on his career.

### DIDN'T REALIZE HIS TALENT

All this time, I had no idea what kind of talent Dave had. He was my friend, and that was enough. But one day I got a chance to see that there was even more to David Cassidy than I thought!

What happened was that his mom, Evelyn Ward, was appearing in a production in Los Angeles, and through her, Dave made his first professional appearance. He didn't talk much about it, but I knew he was really excited!

Of course I was there opening night to see him, not knowing what to expect! The play was set in colonial days and Dave had a small part playing a young servant. That's all he had told me.

All of a sudden, out he came on the stage, wearing an old-fashioned outfit with tights. He had a few lines that went something like "The coach is waiting, Sir!" and he did them in a sort of Cockney accent.

But then I got the big surprise! He sang, right in front of all those people, and he was great! I mean he really brought the house down! And you could tell he wasn't the least bit nervous, either!