

weeks after graduation, he headed for New York to try his luck there.

"My father had a place in Irvington On The Hudson in New York State, so I stayed with him for about two months.

"He introduced me to a man who owned a textile business, and I got a job working in the mail room there—and loathed it. I used to ride on the train each morning with all these businessmen, with briefcases, suits and hats. It was a comedy for me, because I was amazed I was a part of all that. And I hated it. I really did."

But, at the same time, David was a student at the David Craig School of Musical Comedy, spending his lunch hours going out on auditions. And, finally, his chance to make a start on his show business career came about when he won a co-starring role in the Broadway musical "The Fig Leaves Are Falling."

"A man from CBS saw the show and asked me to do a screen test for the movie 'Hail Hero'—the role eventually played by Michael Douglas."

"This was a good break for me. I was told I was probably going to be too young for the part, but that they were

testing five guys for it—all different ages. And I was the youngest looking.

"Well, I didn't get the part, of course, but they saw the test over at Universal Studios, liked me, and brought me out here to Hollywood to do another test.

"After that, I just didn't go back to New York, because I knew Los Angeles, and knew I was now in a better position to tackle it."

A guest starring role in an episode of "Ironside," was quickly followed by roles in "The Survivors," "Marcus Welby, M.D.," "Adam-12," "Medical Center," and "The Mod Squad."

"All of a sudden, I was the busiest person in the world," he smiled. "I was working week after week."

Then came his audition for the role of Keith Partridge. "My manager sent me up for it—and I fit the description: a 16-year-old with a talent for music. Well, I sang, and played the guitar, and drums. When I read for the part, I thought I was just right for it, so I felt confident—which always helps."

The fact that his step-mother was also being considered for the series was quite a strange coincidence—"really a freak," as David describes it.

David's very fond of both sides of his family, but still likes his independence. He stayed with his mother for a short while, after returning to Los Angeles, but soon moved out into his own apartment, and later into his present home.

In his spare time, he dates several different girls. "I like happy, natural, unaffected girls—and girls who like me," he smiled. "Startlets and career girls turn me off, also social climbers and egotists."

"I date different ones, because I really cannot get involved," he explained.

"Someday, I'd very much like to get involved with just one girl—but not right now. I'm not ready for it. There are too many other things I want to do."

"I'm going to do personal appearances in the spring, I think. It's not certain yet. I want to travel. I really do."

And you can be sure that wherever David goes, he'll be followed by teenage fans. But this doesn't really bother him. About his success, he commented: "I feel good about it. There's nothing to be afraid of. It's exciting."

And, despite the fact that the girls won't leave him alone and he has practically no privacy, David really meant it. **END**

JUDY PACE

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like everybody else?"

"Questions about my family are a joy to find in a letter because I grew up in a home with a great deal of love, where a good example as well as specific guidance was always on my mother and father's conscience. My dad's a jet mechanic. My sisters, Jean and Betty, are older, and our brother, Edward, is younger. I'm as proud of them as we are of our parents.

"Confide that you're shy and I'm sympathetic instantly. I wasn't at home, but I was very bashful at school and socially. I dreaded being called upon to recite, never had nerve enough to try out for any plays or student activities. Yet I did get my start as a singer by going to choir practice all the way through high school.

"When I'm quizzed about a beauty secret, I'm amazed. I was called an ugly little girl. At five feet five, I still didn't dazzle anyone. I discovered, there actually are no definite standards for beauty. People never agree on exactly what it is, or should be. Beauty is truly in the eyes of the beholder. Don't be dismayed by 'musts' for make-up, hair styles, or clothes. Or conclude only what someone insists upon is beautiful in other areas. Your own conception of beauty is valid until you choose to change. If you attempt to be attractive personally, you can please those who genuinely like you.

"If we discuss fashions in clothes, I'll remember my mother had her own dress shop and that my sisters and I also grew up working with her there. We thought that was terrific. It gave us ideas about new trends, but taught us we didn't have to be the victims of a distant designer's notions. Mother showed us how to sew, so we could make our own clothes. I advise every girl to sew, to design what she wears. At that time there was a dress code in California high schools—I was born in Los Angeles—that betrayed a limited imagination. Today there isn't

that frustration. What you put on shouldn't be why you're liked. We ought to express our real selves in what we wear. Dressing to seem what we're not—older, younger, or more wordly, is the sort of pretense that isn't suitable in real life.

"Wonder how much a college education is worth and you'll get this candid reply from me: 'It depends upon your goals.' My two sisters went to Los Angeles City College, and so I did, too, because I had no choice. Our parents wanted us to have that advantage. Speaking only for myself, I did not find my direction there. They have a fine dramatic department on that campus, but I was far too shy to suppose I could qualify for it. I did not think of acting until a bit later. First, I found so many young women get advice that is too limiting from school counsellors. Especially black girls. It's sad when we are told we can become either a school teacher, a nurse, a social worker or a secretary—and that about covers our future. The choice isn't that narrow. A black girl is reminded that if she wants money she may get it by marrying a doctor or a lawyer.

"What helped me most was getting sick. Yes, literally! I was ill for several months instead of completing my sophomore year in college. While I was recuperating at home, I had plenty of time to think. I decided then on what I wholeheartedly wanted to do—try to get into show business. My sister Jean had become a singer and dancer and found her career fulfilling. Besides, it was the only way I could make more money. My parents consented when they listened to my hopes, recognizing it might be the right move for me.

"If you're a sudden success as an entertainer, that's wonderful. I'll acknowledge I wasn't. It took me two years of study at Corey Allan's dramatic school in Los Angeles to acquire acting basics. I worked at my mother's shop to earn my way.

"Once you focus on a particular plan,

the chances begin to come as challenges. To my surprise, I mustered enough courage to enter a beauty contest. And I didn't win. I lost. But it was a sensible step for it helped teach me there's no reason to be too shy.

A representative of Ebony magazine saw me in it and signed me as one of eight girls for its coast-to coast tour of young models for the newest fashions. I was dropped early from the tour because one official declared I looked too young for those clothes. However, when I was chosen for the Ebony tour for the next year, the clothes I modeled in 76 cities were designed for me. And that brought an exciting offer to act in a movie at Columbia Studios. I had only a couple of lines to say in 'The Candy Web' when I was cast as a contest winner from Africa, but I was on salary there for that filming for two months. It was the foothold for larger parts in pictures, on the stage, and in TV. Now you can see more clearly why I say, 'Don't ever be afraid to try to win what you truly want!'

"If you hesitate to finally make the step from home to your own apartment, I can recognize that feeling for I continued to live with my folks until two years ago. I don't think a girl should go from such affection directly into a place with a husband. Learning to manage on your own first is the intermediate phase before homemaking for a family, in my opinion.

"Would you believe my apartment in Hollywood still isn't finished yet? I plan and look carefully for what could be best in every spot in it. In the process, I've been teaching myself something about decorating.

"I try to make most of my clothes. Mother stopped at her shop two years ago because she didn't want to be lonesome there without a daughter any longer. My sister Jean has been teaming happily on the stage with Oscar Brown, Jr. I saw their musical smash, 'Joy '70,' a number of times this past year when it ran in an off-Broadway theatre. My other sister, Betty, wanted to be a