



DAVID CASSIDY with his television mother in *The Partridge Family*, Shirley Jones, in real-life his stepmother.

'Fame is a nice inconvenience'

Welby, M.D., he appeared in *Medical Centre*, *Ironside*, *The FBI*, *Adam-12*, *The Mod Squad*, *The Survivors* and *Bonanza* before *The Partridge Family*.

It was as an actor, not a singer, that he was cast in the role of Keith Partridge, and that is still the way he likes to think of himself ("I want to be a *good* actor").

The studio did not know he could sing until the program was under way. However, there is no truth to the legend that the studio did not know he was Shirley Jones' stepson.

But he did get his first important part—co-starring in a Broadway musical, *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*—without letting anyone know who he was and without telling his family until after he had the job. He said his name was David Bruce when he auditioned. Unfortunately, *Fig Leaves* survived only four performances.

CASSIDY'S mother, Evelyn Ward, says: "I don't like children in show business — the studio schools and the professional children's schools. But it was a source of aggravation to David when he saw me working with other kids, so I let him appear with me in summer stock once in a while.

"This teenage idol thing won't change him. He has seen hard times and lean years and he knows what show business is because both his father and I have been in it all his life. David has great insight."

Jack Cassidy, who admits that he is "mildly irked" when actor friends request autographed pictures of his son for their teenage daughters, says: "David knows himself pretty well. Sometimes at various functions he

looks at me as if to say, 'What is this, Dad?'"

Young Cassidy's manager, Ruth Aarons, says: "He's not from a civilian home like so many teenage idols. He has a sophisticated, show-business background. He is prepared to use himself wisely. He's constructed to learn."

Aside from his circumscribed style of living, Cassidy seems to enjoy his newfound fame. "It's a *nice* inconvenience," he says. "When you don't have it, you sure wish you did."

As guides, he has the examples of his father, who never quite had it, and his stepmother, who came to overnight stardom in *Oklahoma!* David knows how fleeting his sudden fame can be.

A reserved, untalkative boy who punctuates his sentences with "like" and "you know", he has seen Davy Jones and Bobby Sherman, his immediate predecessors in the teenage pantheon, gradually diminish in prominence.

He says: "There are just a couple of years to this sort of thing."

Unlike many of his contemporaries, David is not worried about the draft—"In the lottery, my number is down near the bottom.

"But I was really sweating it. When you're 19 or 20, you're trying to plan. After two years you've stopped, and it's hard to start again. What's happening now couldn't happen two years from now.

"Sure, we have someone waiting in the wings," says Chuck Laufer, the entrepreneur. "You always have to keep looking." □

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active and involved, and that may be why he isn't."

"When I was going to college people thought protesting was the groovy thing to do," says Cassidy: "I thought, I'm going to school, and I just went. I wasn't involved — maybe I should have been."

Cassidy dropped out of Los Angeles City College to take the part in *The Partridge Family*. Both his mother and father — actress-singer-dancer Evelyn Ward and actor-singer Jack Cassidy—had urged him to wait until he was through school before going into show business.

Jack Cassidy and Miss Ward parted when David was 5. Born in New York

21 years ago, he was raised in New Jersey by his mother and grandmother until he was 10, when his mother moved to Hollywood.

There he went to high school and saw his father on weekends. He played basketball in high school and at the YMCA until "I got interested in girls and stopped growing about the same time." (He is only 5 feet 8, weighs under 10st. and is almost dainty in appearance.)

After graduation from high school, he worked for a time with the Los Angeles Theatre Group. He returned to New York when he was 17, then came back to California a couple of years ago.

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