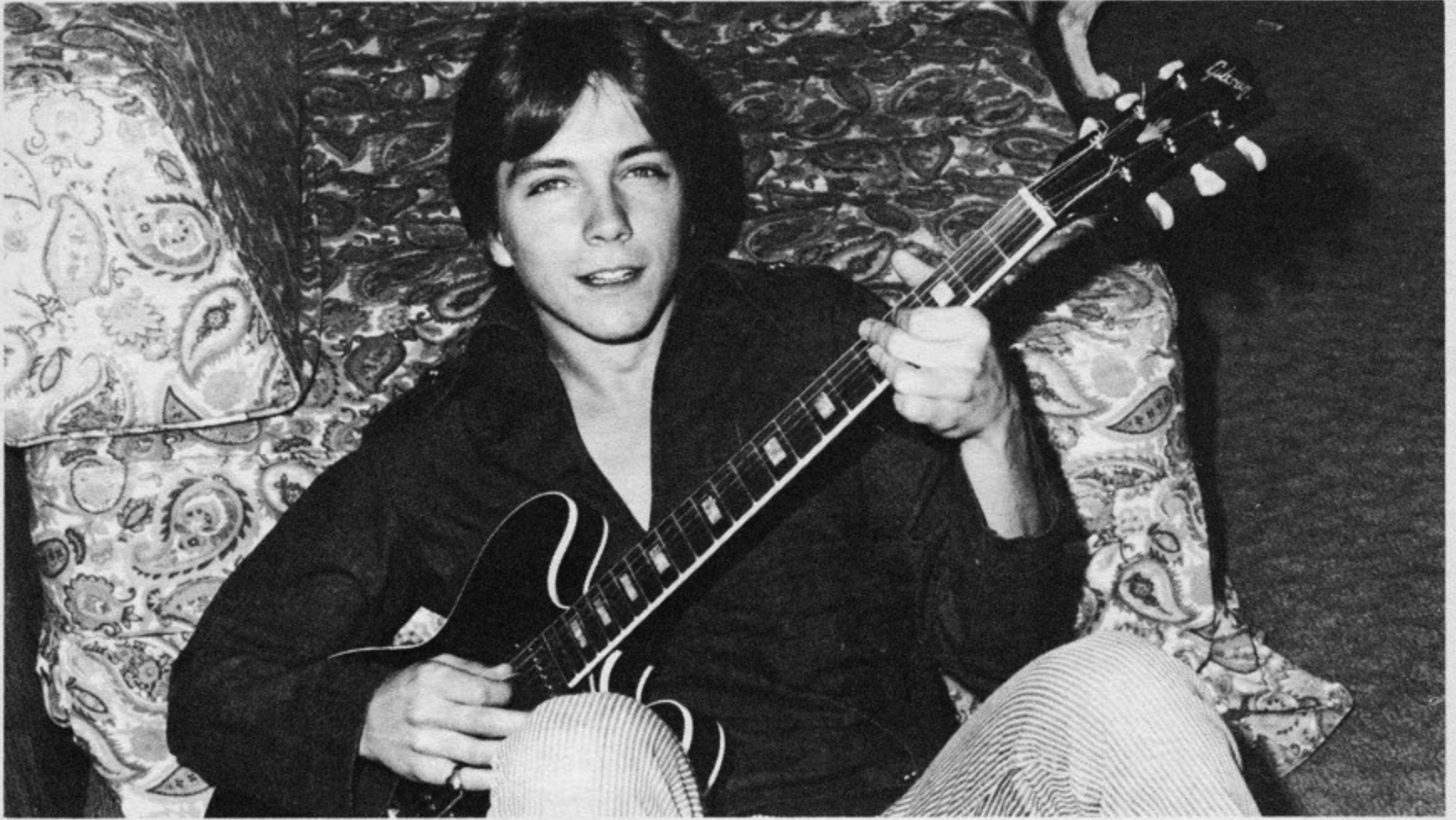


DAVID CASSIDY'S Life Story

CHAPTER II

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David as he looked at the time of his first singing audition for *PF*.

SYNOPSIS: When David Cassidy was first offered the role of "Keith Partridge" in the Screen Gems TV pilot *The Partridge Family*, formerly called *Family Business*, he rejected the offer. But after David realized that as "Keith Partridge" he would get to sing—and maybe even make a record—he jumped at the chance to audition for the part. Unbeknownst to David, his real-life stepmother—actress-singer Shirley Jones—had already been cast as "Mrs. Partridge" in the series, and hers was the final vote that was ultimately needed to convince the Screen Gems big-wigs that David should indeed play the part of "Keith Partridge".

That night David and Sam Hyman, his roommate, celebrated not only David's incredible good luck in getting the starring role on an important TV pilot—with the possibility of a long run in a series—but also getting the opportunity to make music on that pilot. But, alas, little did David know that storm clouds loomed on the horizon—that other people in high places had other ideas about *who* was going to make the music for *The Partridge Family* series—and that if they had their way, David Cassidy would never sing or play a *for-real* note as "Keith Partridge" either on *The Partridge Family* show or on recordings!!

ENTER WES FARRELL

Later, while David sat brooding (because he had not been asked to sing on *PF*) in his small Hollywood Hills house, his fairy godmother was *very* busy in New York City preparing to take care of his future again. Larry Utall, president of Bell Records (which is Screen Gems record label), had been assigned the task of getting together a *Partridge Family* LP—and he, in turn, had enlisted the services of a handsome young record producer genius named Wes Farrell.

Wes, whose long list of record successes include *Indian Lake* by the Cowsills, *Hang On Sloop*y by the McCoys and *Candida* by Dawn (just to mention a few), prepared to fly to Los Angeles to start putting together a group of studio musicians and singers, who would record under the name of *The Partridge Family*. When Wes arrived in Hollywood, the first place he went was the office of *The Partridge Family* producer, Bob Claver. While Wes and Bob were going over the plans for a *Partridge Family* album, Bob said, "By the way, Wes, David's

mother—she's an actress and singer named Evelyn Ward—called me up and mentioned that David—he's the boy who's playing 'Keith Partridge' in the series—can actually *sing*. So I—"

"Great!" Wes interrupted. "Let's get him down here and see what he sounds like."

"That's just it," Bob went on. "I called David and he's due here any moment." Bob paused for a moment and then he slowly added, "Look, even if he can't sing a note, just be nice to him and—well, we'll find somebody else to *sing* for him."

At that moment, Bob's secretary buzzed the intercom and announced, "David Cassidy to see you, sir." Within seconds, David, carrying a guitar and looking pretty much like a scared teenager, was shown into the room.

"I could tell right away," Wes recalls, "that he was really uptight. I mean, there he was walking in cold and he had to sit down and play and sing for us. To tell you the truth, I really felt kind of sorry for him."

David strummed the guitar and sang a few bars of a few songs. As he did so, Bob Claver's face got glummer and glummer. But Wes Farrell's expression slowly changed from detached curiosity to avid interest. All at once he leaned over and interrupted David. "Hey, man," he said, "don't do that here. That's not right—singing for us like this."

Both Bob and David stared at Wes in disbelief. "What I mean is," Wes went on, "I've got to hear you in a studio. Like this—I don't know whether you can sing or not."

David stood up, looking like his whole world had caved in, but Wes continued talking. "Look, here is the address of Western Studios. I've written it down on this piece of paper for you. It's right near here—meet me there tonight at eight o'clock. O.K.?"

David awkwardly put the piece of paper in his pocket and nodded yes. But when he walked out the door his heart was almost broken in two, for he felt as though he had failed what he considered the most important audition of his life.

But David didn't know what was going on in Wes Farrell's mind. To find out how Wes made it possible for David to sing on the *PF* series and on *The Partridge Family* records, plus doing live concerts, be sure to get the January issue of *16*. The January *16* goes on sale November 23. Meet David here then!!