

It was finally a tie, because we both ended up black! Another time we tried to see whose hair could grow the longest. I really tried, but mine stopped after a while, so Dave won that one!

Dave was a good sport about being teased, too. He never minded being called Hoppy, and the other thing I remember is his beard—I mean his lack of one! Most of the other guys had to shave every day, but not Dave. So every time they saw him they'd say, "Are you shaving yet?" He'd just laugh. He never got uptight about it.

We never used to trade clothes or anything because I'm a larger size, but now that I think of it, I borrowed a pair of his shoes once, probably four years ago! I still have them! I always felt as if he were my brother, and anything I had, I shared with him. And Dave was the same way.

DAVE ALWAYS LOVED ACTING

If there was one main difference between us in those days, it would be that Dave gave more thought to his future than I did. Everything we did was living day by day, but once in awhile Dave would have a serious moment, and he'd talk about what he wanted to do. There was never any doubt in his mind that he was going to be an actor!

We used to joke about it. I'd say, "Okay Dave, when you're an actor and you've made it, I'll be your chauffeur!" He called me Levy then, and he'd answer, "Sure, Levy! I'll keep that in mind!" But all kidding aside, I always knew that acting was the one thing that meant more to Dave than anything else, because it was always in the back of his mind.

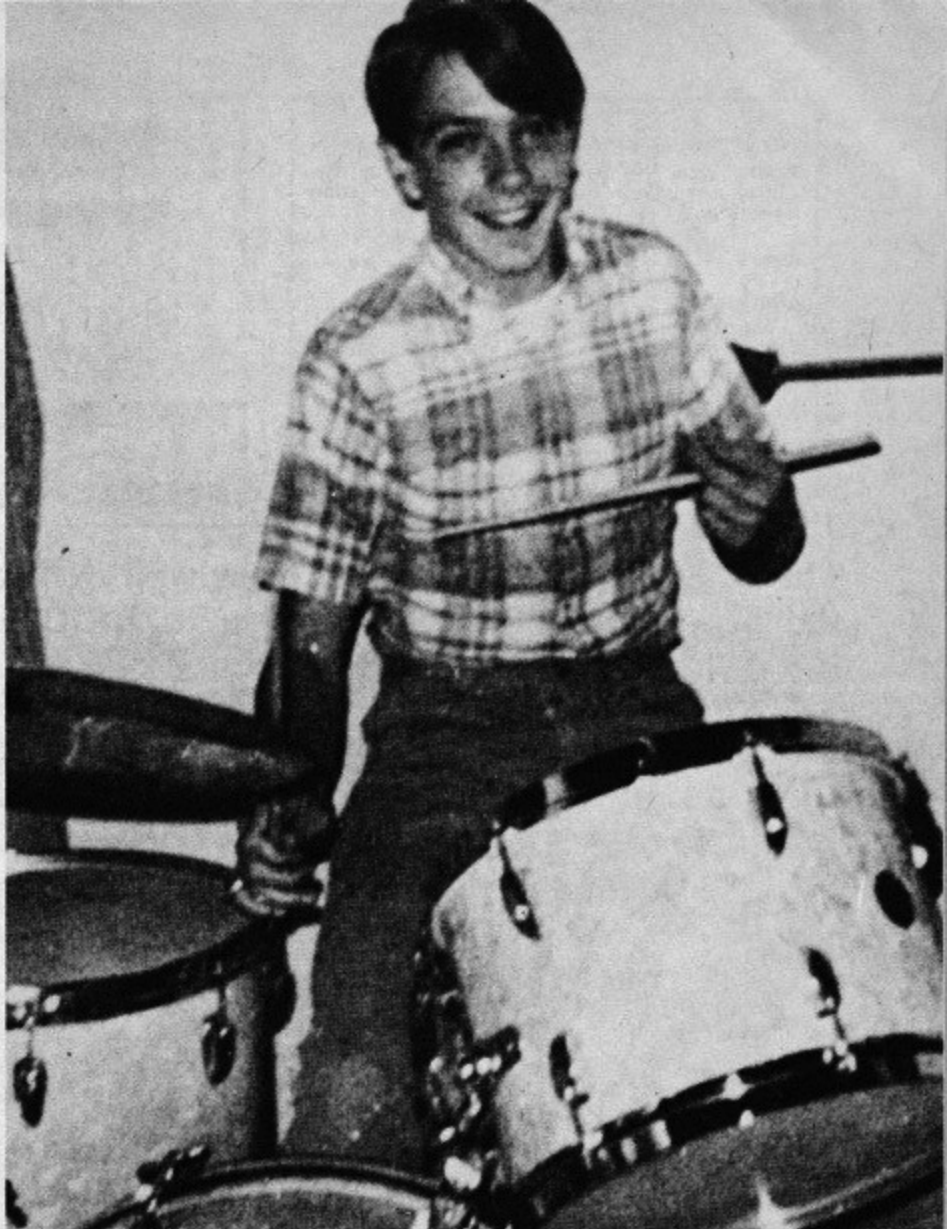
SAL MINEO'S DRUMS

There was one other thing Dave was serious about, and that was music. He played the guitar a little, but the thing he was really crazy about was his set of drums. He really loved those things, and when he got started on them, I mean he got into it! He used to forget about anything else!

He got the drums from Sal Mineo, who was an old friend. Sal had used the same set when he starred in "The Gene Krupa Story," and afterwards he gave them to Dave. They used to have sessions at Sal's house all the time, and Dave was good, really good!

The first time I heard Dave play was at his house. We were goofing off as usual and he sat down and started fooling around. I realized right away that he knew what he was doing. Like I said, Dave never bragged about things, so I'll admit he surprised me! But that was just the first of many surprises that quiet Dave Cassidy had in store for me!

NEXT MONTH: Richard tells us about David's home life, why all the girls liked him so much, and the time they got into trouble together!



FIVE YEARS have passed since David posed with drums above, in May 1966, but he still has them and plays often!

