

you and then leaning down to gather up her boys and give them a hug.

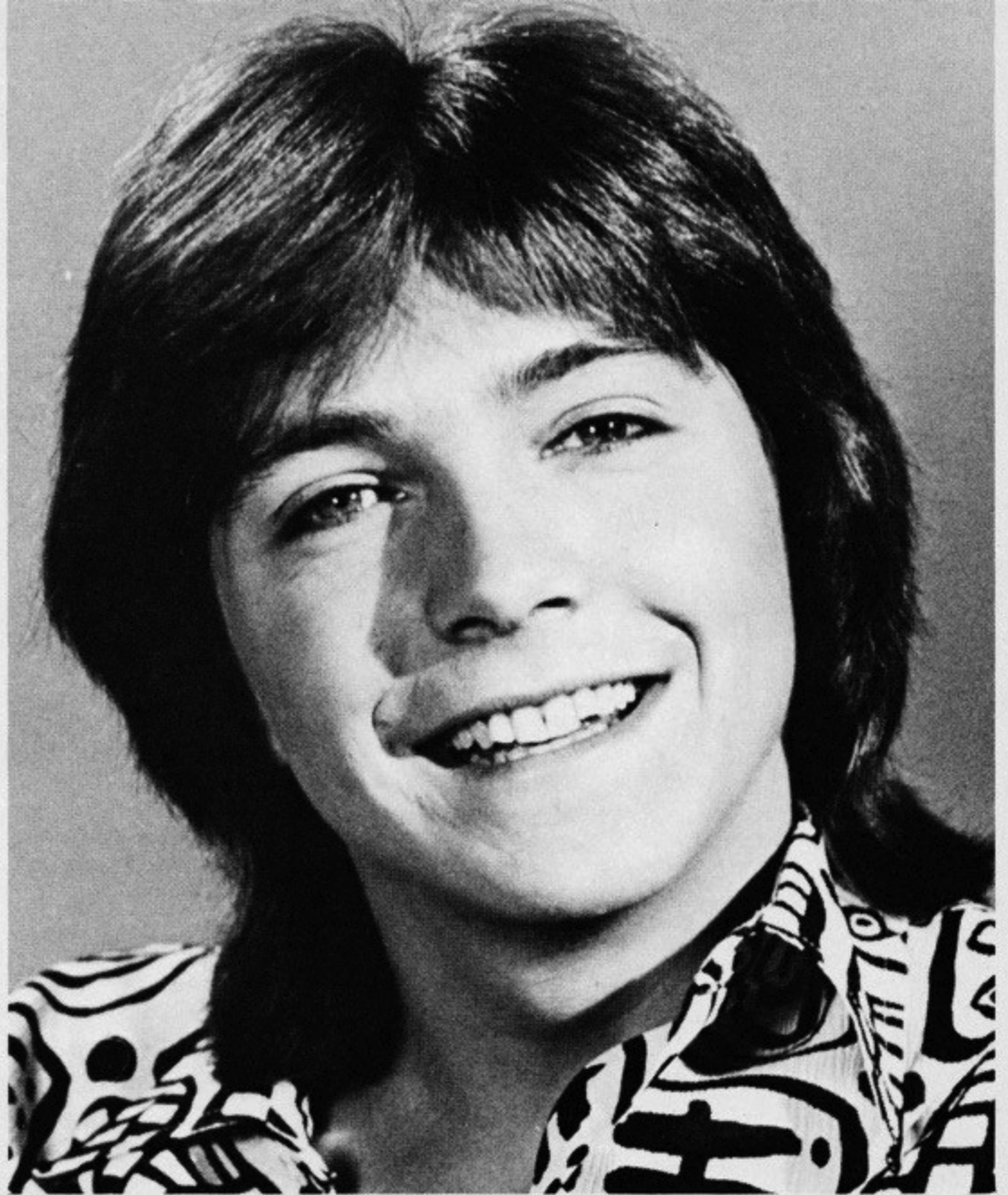
• SQUEEZED HIM TIGHT

"And David, you look wonderful," Shirley says, putting her arms around him and squeezing him tightly. "Ah, I look just the same," David says shyly, beaming at his father over Shirley's head. He winks at you and says, "Hey, I didn't come here to hug and kiss. Let's open the loot! I sure hope Santa Claus left me that elephant I asked for!"

Everyone laughs and the whole family quickly gathers around the huge tree which touches the ceiling in the living room. Presents are stacked high around the bottom and stream out onto the carpet.

Pat and Ryan are beside themselves with joy! They refused to open a single present until you and David were there but now, wild horses couldn't hold them back. Suddenly red and green ribbons and Santa Claus stickers and wrapping paper are flying in all directions. Toys, cars, games and "ah, more clothes" are beginning to pile up around the couch, on the end tables, covering every surface except the ceiling.

"Omygosh! The turkey!" Shirley yelps, streaking out of the living room and through the swinging door into the kitchen. "I'll help," you yell, running behind her.



• BUSY 'TIL DINNER

With a quick glance back at the tree, you can see that Jack and David are bent over Ryan's new electric train and you instinctively know that they'll be busy until everyone's ready to eat Christmas dinner.

"False alarm," Shirley smiles as you walk through the door. "I always burn something and this time I've vowed I won't!" she says. "What are the men doing?"

"They're engrossed in Ryan's new electric train," you answer.

"Well, that takes care of them for the next three hours," Shirley says with a laugh. "Guess we'll just have to cook dinner."

You couldn't be more excited to help cook Christmas dinner at the Cassidy house. Shirley hands you an apron and the two of you spend the next three hours cooking and stirring and watching and when there's a spare minute, eating Christmas cookies and drinking milk at the kitchen table.

• DINNER TIME

Finally, the moment arrives. "Dinner's ready, dinner's ready," you and Shirley announce proudly to the

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