

DAVID, THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY—& YOU!

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the huge, hangar-like studio we will soon be entering. Each of them cheerfully waves and greets us in a friendly, warm manner that will make you come to know and love every single one of them.

Today is going to be a particularly exciting day for all of us. Not only have we got *you* with us, a new member of our cast-family (so to speak), but we have all just come back to work after a three-month hiatus (which is TV language for vacation) from shooting our first 17 segments—and we are about to begin shooting our next 17 *PF* segments, which will be shown on ABC-TV every Friday night at 8:30, starting in September. Naturally, the first day back from hiatus is kind of like a reunion or, better still, like “old home week” for the *PF* gang. And *you* are about to get your “initiation” into what it’s like to spend a morning on the set!

A green and tan station wagon turns the corner and you get your first glimpse of our TV mom—lovely Shirley Jones. Shirley pulls into her parking space, looks at us, smiles, nods and says, “Good morning, Susan. How are you? I’ll see you on the set,”—and is on her way. If you didn’t know Shirley as well as I do, you might wonder for a moment—thinking she is not the warm, friendly person she *really* is. But Shirley’s polite “good morning” is her way of *not* intruding on others. Shirley has absolutely perfect good manners and a *great* respect for other people’s rights and privacy. She would no more come over and start yakking without being asked than she would—well, interrupt a conversation. Shirley is all lady from top-to-toe, from beginning-to-end—and it’s her quiet, feminine, almost regal “lady-likeness” that keeps everything that occurs on the entire *Partridge Family* series at such a high level of “niceness”. It’s as though Shirley sets the pattern for our day-to-day life here. Because she is so fine, sweet and considerate, we start to become that way. We catch her “goodness” sort of by osmosis—and that’s really nice and we’re very grateful to Shirley for that—just to mention one of the many lovely gifts she bestows on the members of *The Partridge Family*. But more about her later—for here comes an exciting interruption!

DISAPPEARING DAVID

David Cassidy’s dark blue Mustang swings around the

David in his dressing room—he’s definitely *not* a morning person!



corner—somewhat in excess of the ten mph speed limit—and comes to a screeching halt dead center of the parking slot marked “David Cassidy”. The door opens slowly, a sun-tanned, lean arm appears, followed by a lithe, five feet and eight inches tall, 125-pound, hazel-eyed, tousled, brown-haired young man, wearing faded flare-bottomed blue jeans, desert boots and a cotton knit, round-neck, three-button “Wallace Beery” pullover — and great big sunglasses. It’s David Cassidy!—and for a fleeting second, he looks right in our direction. Then, without saying a word, he whirls around and marches directly to the small, nearby, trailer dressing room that has his name on the door. In a flash, he’s up the two little steps and the door is slammed behind him. It all happens so fast, we both stand there open-mouthed for a moment, wondering if we really saw David at all!

But never you mind, we’ll be seeing *plenty* of that young gentleman very soon—and for a long, long time thereafter!

I link my arm in yours and guide you to Stage 29, explaining on the way, “Well, that’s David Cassidy. It isn’t that he’s moody—or is he?—it’s just that David is definitely *not* a morning person. In fact, I read in *16* where David’s mom—actress-singer Evelyn Ward—said that David *was definitely a night person* and the hardest thing in the world to do was to get him up in the morning! So,” I continue, as we approach the door to the studio, “now that you’re ‘in the know’ about David’s morning sleepiness, you’re probably just as amazed as I am that he actually makes it to the set every day. But don’t worry about our darling sleepyheaded boy, cos he *does* make it in every day and sooner than you know it, he’ll be right by your side—and very *wide awake!*”

As we enter the gigantic sound and shooting stage which is numbered “29”, and which is assigned specifically for shooting *The Partridge Family*, it’s as though you’ve entered a huge, spacious, dark “tomb”. I mean, the size of one of these studios is so incredible, so overwhelming, that it’s hard to *imagine*—but try to picture one huge room, three stories high and big enough to put *ten basketball courts in!* To our right, we see a series of bright lights all in a row, and we head in this direction. The first person we see sitting in a big, comfortable, barber’s-type swivel chair is Shirley Jones. Shirley’s head is resting against the head-rest and a man is leaning over her with some artist brushes in

“He has a big smile on his face—and he’s looking at *you!*”

