

part in one of the summer stock plays I was doing—and after that I always tried to find a role for little David. Please understand—I *wasn't* being a “stage mother”. It was actually the most practical thing to do. I loved David deeply and hated to be separated from him, and this was the one way I could be sure it was all right for him to “tag along”.

When David wasn't working in a play, he would always find something to do—or he'd hang around and watch the other performers work, observing and picking up skills little by little. And when I was on stage, David always, *always* was in the wings. His habit of watching from the wings continued until the age of 18, when he sprouted his own “showbiz wings” and flew along his chosen path on his own! But that's getting ahead of my story.

I remember one particularly *embarrassing* performance David *didn't* give for me. When David was about seven, I was in Washington, D. C., co-starring in *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* with Joan Blondell. The reviews for the show were very, very good, and we were sort of the “rage of the town”. Among other things, I had been asked to do a radio interview on a very popular show. My mother happened to be visiting, so she and David sat on the other side of the glass booth while the radio announcer and I talked together. At a certain point, the announcer said something about the song *Wish You Were Here*, which was the number-one hit of America at the time and which Jack Cassidy was currently singing in the Broadway hit of the same name. I told him, “You should hear my son David sing it.”

“Well,” said the announcer, “why don't we do just that?” And he gestured through the glass for David to join us. I was thrilled. *Wish You Were Here* was David's favorite song and he sang it *all* the time! I mean, it was hard to *stop* him from singing it! My mother brought David to us and sat him next to me.

“Hello, young man,” the announcer greeted him. “What's your name?”

“David,” David mumbled.

That's funny, I thought. *Why isn't he speaking up—like he usually does?*

“Well, David, how old are you?”

David mumbled something.

The announcer, getting a bit embarrassed, said, “Well, now—how would you like to sing your and everybody else's favorite song—*Wish You Were Here?*”

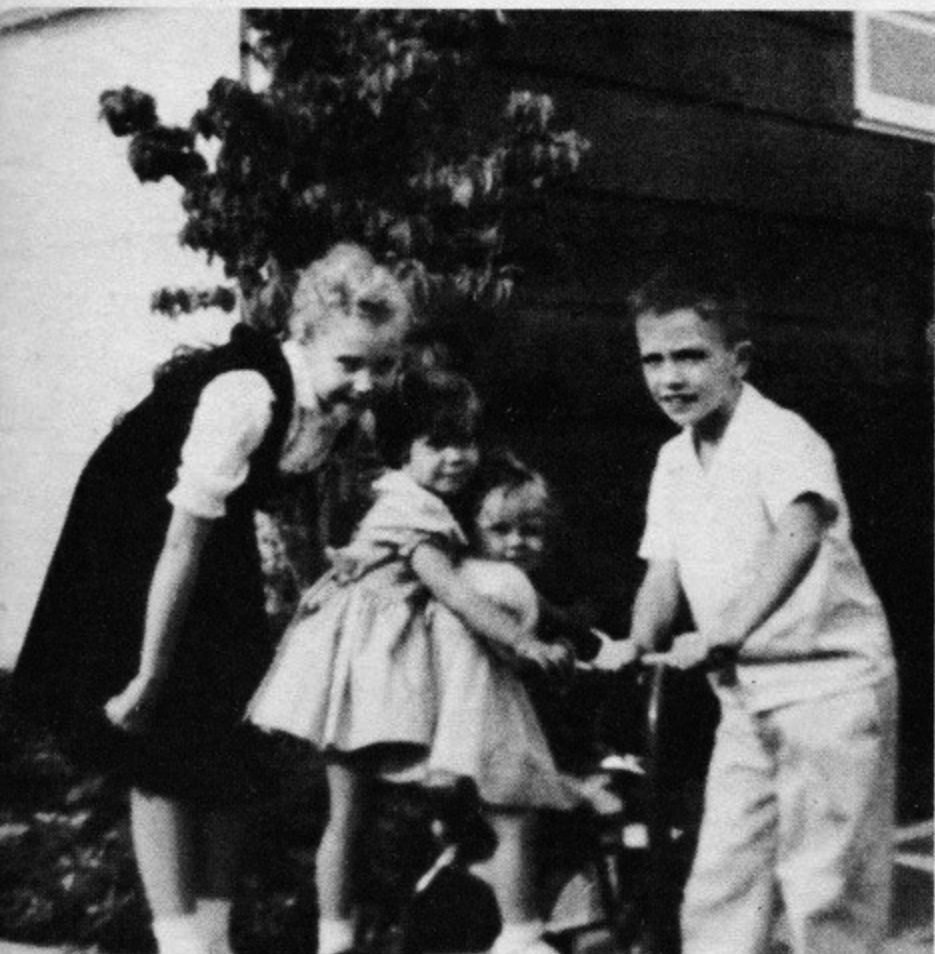
David looked up—and *didn't say a word!* Not only did he *not* say a word, even worse—he never *sang* a note! Talk about life's embarrassing moments! Of course, the second we were outside the radio station, he started singing up a storm—naturally! Doesn't it always happen that way?!

DAVID'S TV DEBUT

For all of you out there in 16-land who saw David *before* he appeared on *The Partridge Family* series—in those guest shots he did on *Medical Center*, *Bonanza*, etc.—and for those of you who are David Cassidy and *PF* lovers—well, how'd you like to hear about his *very first* TV appearance?!

When David was eight, a friend of mine was writing a dramatic show for national TV. He had observed David on numerous occasions and he said, “Eve, why not let me write a little part for David? He's a ‘natural’—and this would be a good opportunity for him to make his TV debut.”

Needless to say, that was quite all right with me—and David gave *his definite affirmative* approval. So, after a couple of months, I found myself in front of my TV set—breathlessly awaiting my son's television debut. The name of the show was *House On High Street*, and when David came on—well, I couldn't believe my eyes. It's very hard to describe, for he was actually quite good. *Competent* is the word. There he was—remembering his lines and giving a more than adequate performance, and yet—*somehow*—it wasn't David. As his mother, I knew that inwardly he was “panicking”. He was carrying it off, but the boy I saw on



● At the age of seven, David and his cousin Barbara pose with their third cousins, Debbie and Phyllis — grandchildren of Aunt Marion.



● David at 10 (this is how he looked when he first moved to Hollywood) at Fairburn Grammar School. Look at David's super-short haircut!

APRIL 22— REAL COLOR, POP-OUT DAVID CASSIDY POSTER!