

David Cassidy Fighting For His Life!

By LEE TAYLOR

Although David is only twenty-one, he has always been a bon vivant with the ladies. Hopefully, the operation he was forced to have will enable him to lead a normal life.



David was sick, but he didn't want to worry parents Jack and Shirley.



David hopes he can stay active and athletic, but only time will tell.

■ "I've never been so sick and scared in all my life," the young man said. "I used to ignore good health, but I haven't had it in several years!"

The "young man" in this case is David Cassidy, twenty-one-year-old star of **The Partridge Family** series, and on July 12th, the show, its cast and crew, had to shut down production after their star was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital for emergency surgery; the removal of his gall bladder.

David entered the hospital on July 12th and was operated on the following day. In between, this reporter was able to see him, for just a few minutes, since the hospital staff was very strict about his rest.

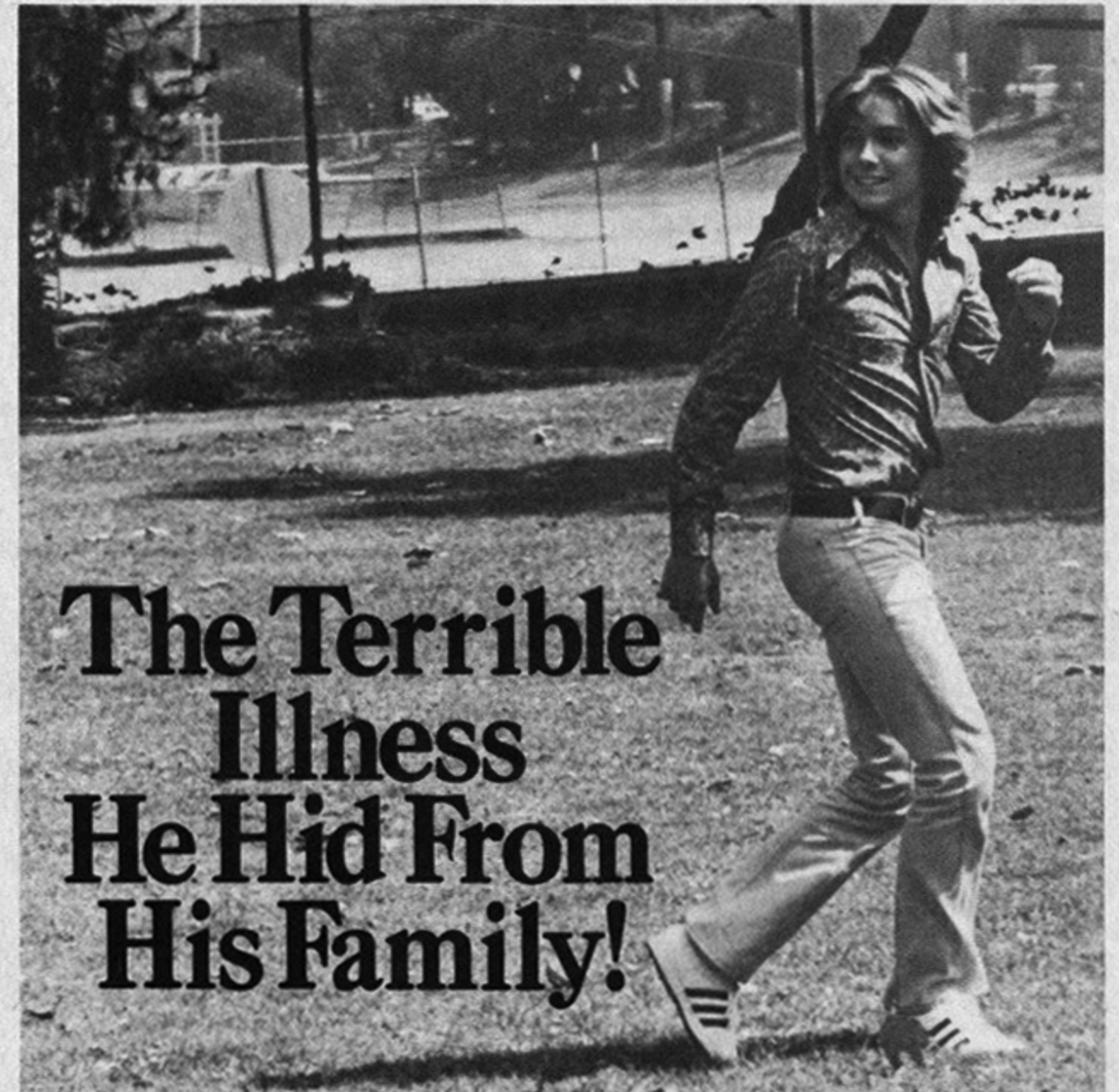
He occupied a fifth floor private room, and had traded his usual mod digs for hospital whites. He seemed to be in great discomfort.

"Don't mind me," David said, trying to slough off his pain. "I've been having this pain for almost three years so I should be used to it."

Around the room were flowers and gifts that had been sent by friends who'd heard about his illness. But a hospital's a hospital, and even an excess of flowers can't change the environment much.

"I've been ill with this thing for some time. I remember a few years ago, I had this pain coming from the stomach area, or a little lower. But it came and went at first so I didn't get worried about it.

"But it came back again. One day I was at the Farmer's Market with Shirley (David's stepmother) Jones. She was buying Christmas baskets of fruit for different people, and I drove her there. I was standing waiting for her to go when I had this terrible cramp. (Continued on page 56)



The Terrible Illness He Hid From His Family!