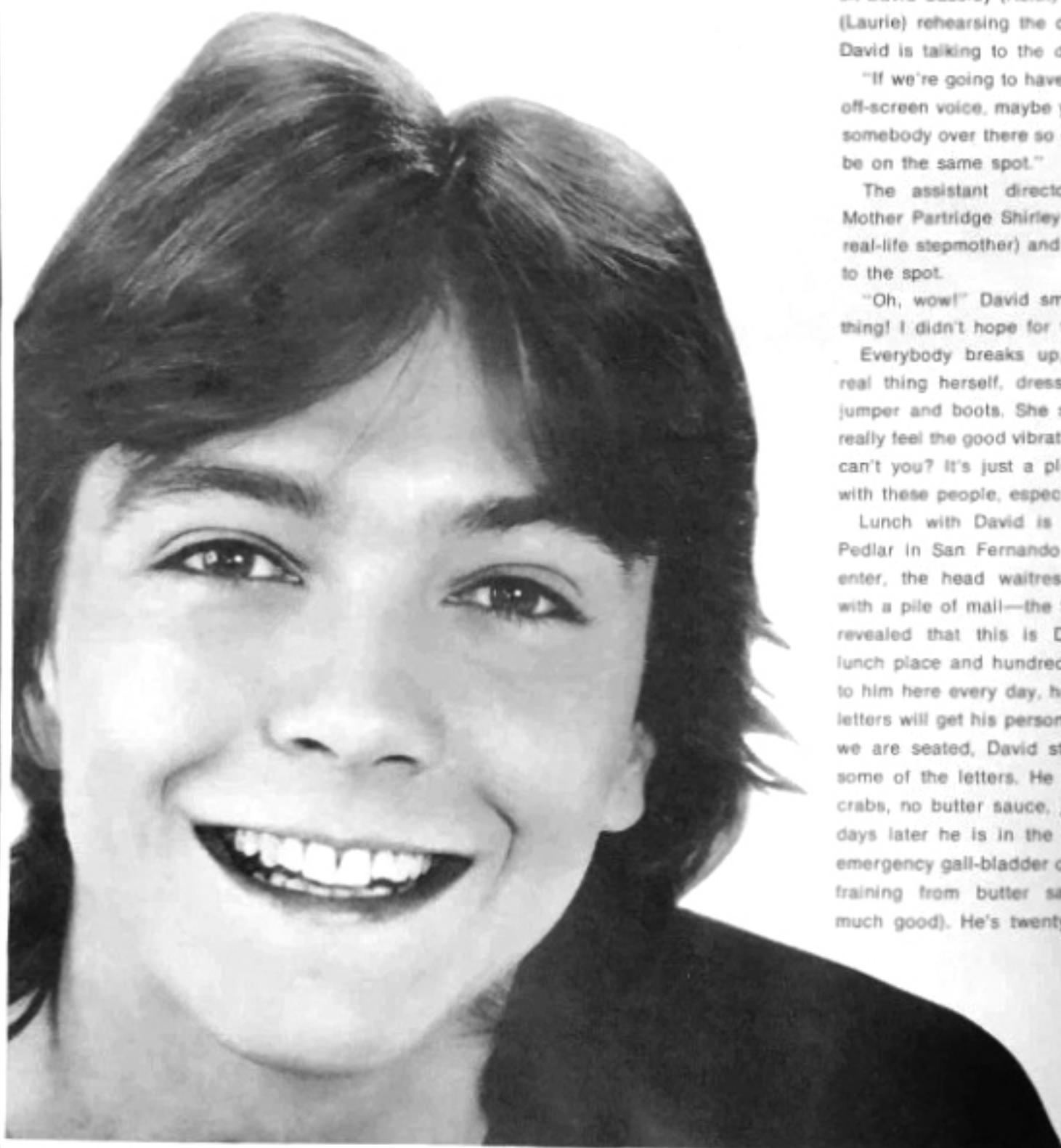


DAVID CASSIDY: "I'M NOT HUNG UP ON BEING A STAR!"

an exclusive luncheon interview
with ABC's Partridge Family superstar



"Yechhh!" the girls say disgustedly, peering into my car as it is allowed past the gate of the Columbia Ranch at 3701 Oak Street in Los Angeles. They are fans of David Cassidy and Bobby Sherman, waiting patiently for the arrival of their idols. But not for me. Most of them seem to be between the ages of ten and fifteen and in a state of hysterical expectation.

Over to Stage 30 where *The Partridge Family* show is being shot. Inside the huge studio, in one corner of the sound-proof auditorium, is the intimate *Partridge Family* living room. On the sofa sit David Cassidy (Keith) and Susan Dey (Laurie) rehearsing the day's sequence. David is talking to the director:

"If we're going to have to speak to an off-screen voice, maybe you could stand somebody over there so our eyes will all be on the same spot."

The assistant director whispers to Mother Partridge Shirley Jones (David's real-life stepmother) and she walks over to the spot.

"Oh, wow!" David smiles. "The real thing! I didn't hope for the real thing!"

Everybody breaks up, including the real thing herself, dressed in a suede jumper and boots. She says: "You can really feel the good vibrations on this set, can't you? It's just a pleasure to work with these people, especially David."

Lunch with David is at the Yankee Pedlar in San Fernando Valley. As we enter, the head waitress dashes over with a pile of mail—the fan books have revealed that this is David's favorite lunch place and hundreds of girls write to him here every day, hoping that their letters will get his personal attention. As we are seated, David starts looking at some of the letters. He orders cracked crabs, no butter sauce, just lemon (two days later he is in the hospital for an emergency gall-bladder operation, so re-training from butter sauce didn't do much good). He's twenty-one but looks