



During a special guest appearance on the Glen Campbell TV show, David obligingly does what comes naturally with a gaggle of teen-age fans—he signs autographs.

He played a pop singer for a season, then he became one

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one of those fan magazines had called me," says Cassidy. Even before the pilot for *The Partridge Family* was sold, Cassidy had become the subject of articles with such titillating titles as "David: How to Turn Him On—By the Girls Who Have"; "David Needs Your Love"; "David's (After Dark) Confessions"; "David & Those Special Kisses." Says David, "I thought, now wait a minute. I want to be an actor, not a teen-age idol. I even went to see the editor of one of those magazines. I asked him not to put me on the cover. Not to do all those stories about me. And he *laughed* at me. After a while I realized that it was good, it was going to happen anyway."

The mags did their work well. When the show made its TV debut in September 1970, the first *Partridge Family* single, "I Think I Love You," with Cassidy singing the lead, was already on its way to selling five million copies. Since then three *Partridge Family* albums and four singles have been released, all of them gold records.

When Cassidy auditioned for *The Partridge Family*, the producers were not told that Shirley Jones—already cast in the role of the mother who becomes a member of the family band—was his real stepmother. And when he was signed, they still didn't know—or care—that he could sing. (Even today the only members of the TV "family" heard on the so-called *Partridge Family* records are David and Shirley Jones.) By late spring, having played a pop star for a season, David became a real full-fledged one by adding live concerts to an already grueling schedule. His new album will be a David Cassidy solo effort. He can, indeed, sing.

"At first David was overwhelmed with the whole thing," says Shirley Jones, "and

his ego blew way up. And I think he hoped that some of those adoring fans would come a *little* closer to his own age. Now, the boy lives in a fishbowl. He's had to move twice, because they found out where he lived. But he still loves it—and it *is* very exciting."

The role of 16-year-old Keith on *The Partridge Family* is hardly likely to stretch an actor's range. "But I think he's learned a lot," says Shirley Jones. "It's very difficult to play younger than you are." Unfortunately, David looks so young it is difficult to remember that Keith Partridge *is* a role. Balanced on the edge of maturity and coming to terms with himself, with the opinions of his peers and with this *thing* that is happening to him, he still betrays traces of the small boy. But then he refers to a phone call from Texas's leading groupie, the Butter Queen, and you realize his world is hardly limited to the Partridge family living room.

When David Cassidy rolls into the Co-

lumbia lot each day, the ever-faithful gaggle of girls is sitting on the curbstone. When he drives out they are still there. "That's no way for anyone to spend an afternoon," says David. "I tell them sometimes, 'Do something, go somewhere, go to the beach.'"

Still, wherever he goes, even on the sound stage during rehearsal, there is always someone asking for, pleading for or demanding an autograph. "They'll say anything. It's always for somebody who's sick, or somebody who's dying and her last wish is to have my autograph." So, unfailingly patient and polite, he signs. While rehearsing for an appearance on *The Glen Campbell Show* last month, David was handed a be-ribboned box sent up by a fan, containing an alive and pecking partridge. "What am I going to do with it!" he moaned in desperation. "Another responsibility! I can't get away from them." The partridge now happily resides at a children's hospital. ■

On location shooting his TV show, David cools off in a nearby pool.



On the set of *The Partridge Family* in which they play mother and son, David and his real stepmother, Shirley Jones, relax together.