

DAVID the he'll never

FOR MORE than a year, David Cassidy has been enjoying the fruits of success television has brought him. A new car, a beautiful new home complete with pool table and wall-to-wall elegance, several gold records, fan mail that numbers in the thousands of pieces weekly and a sold-out concert schedule are some of them. Women are some more.

Although David's tried very hard to keep his name out of the who's-dating-who-and-for-how-long columns, he hasn't been completely successful at all times. The first girl he was linked with was Susan Dey, his co-star on "The Partridge Family" and one of the loveliest girls in Hollywood. By their own admission, they dated once or twice after they'd first met. But they soon realized that a deep friendship would be better for them than a quick romance—and more satisfying, too.

"I'm not sure people believe it, though," David has said. "I keep having to deny a romance between us."

Every time he's seen with a girl, the same thing happens. If she's not known, people first ask "Who's she?" then "How long have you been dating?" and finally "Is it serious?"

"Everyone wants to know when I'm going to get married," David said, "like I have it circled on my calendar . . . the third Saturday after the first Monday in July. But how can you plan something like that?"

The truth is, David may not be planning on it at all. Falling in love may be one thing—but getting married may be quite another. Like so many young people today, he questions the importance of marriage in a love relationship and wonders whether having that legal paper is really of any value.

"I see so many divorces," David said. "My own father's divorce from my mother (actress Evelyn Ward) was pretty terrible to me. I was young then and I didn't understand. I felt that if they got divorced, it meant they didn't love me anymore *as well as each other*. It still turns me off to see so many divorces today. If marriage is taken so