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SHOW Biz



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EMERGENCY OPERATION FOR DAVID CASSIDY!

● We have all the facts of the case now, but it wasn't easy to get at the truth when David Cassidy was rushed to a Los Angeles hospital on July 12th! For almost 48 hours after his emergency operation the next day, the world at large didn't know whether the 21-year-old star of ABC-TV's *The Partridge Family* was still alive or at the very brink of death. From the moment David was admitted to Mt. Sinai at 7:05 A.M., the hospital tried to conceal his presence from the myriad friends and fans who called there so anxiously. By 1:25 the next afternoon—when the young singing actor went into surgery—it seemed impossible to deny that he was a very sick boy! But his actual condition was known only to his immediate family: father Jack Cassidy, step-mother Shirley Jones (femme star of *The Partridge Family*), and David's own mother, Evelyn Ward Silverstein. They had agonized throughout the three-hour operation performed by a team of



experts headed by Dr. Arthur Brower, the noted Beverly Hills surgeon. They had waited, with equal anguish, until David finally regained consciousness from deep anesthesia at 7:45 that night. By then, they knew that the operation itself had been completely successful in removing the gall bladder which had been causing him such frequent and excruciating pain. But trouble from this notorious repository of wastes from liver and kidneys seldom occurs until much later along in life. It is an extremely unusual problem for someone as young as David, and icy fear still clutched their hearts. It was at their request that the hospital issued no "progress reports" until three days later. Even so, this reporter managed to speak with a very weary Jack and Shirley Cassidy the morning after the operation, as they emerged from Mt. Sinai following an all-night vigil at David's bedside.

"David's okay and we think he'll be (Continued on page 16)