

idol, and as a result, so is David.

"The young girls whom I appeal to consider anyone who's over eighteen to be ancient," says David. "I guess I just don't look my age yet." But the star fears that in the next few years he'll mature beyond the upper limit acceptable to the junior set. "The thousands of girls who are now writing me letters of undying devotion will probably have trouble three years from now remembering who I am—or was," he says.

So much for the fickle finger of teenage idolatry. But what about the future? David says he doesn't plan to end up on the unemployment rolls. "I know a lot of other guys who were in my position years ago and had trouble making it as actors when the kids lost interest in them. But I plan to quit acting like a teen-ager before that happens.

"I give myself another two years playing a Partridge, and then I'll start my real career as a serious actor."

In the meantime, David is wowing the audiences and raking in the money. "When I was eighteen, I made \$5,000 that year, when I was nineteen, under \$10,000. From then on, I don't know what happened!" This year David estimates that his income will be anywhere from \$100,000 to \$2,000,000.

Lee Bush, David's business manager and accountant, is taking care of his money. "I'm investing in oil," says David. "And I'm in the process of buying quite a bit of land on an island in the Pacific.

"If you own a lot of land, you can stand in the middle of it and they really can't see you. I like to be alone sometimes, and I find it difficult to be alone. It'd be kind of nice to live on a farm and eat some fruit off the trees. Just enough space to spread out and be free."

David has paid the price of fame and wealth. It's cost him his freedom. He almost wishes for the time when he will be out of the limelight.

"I get a lot of calls from girls who want to date me . . . some of my fans have found out where I live. That's the one thing I really dislike about being a celebrity . . . after a while you just wish you could go someplace without people coming up and bothering you. It really bugs me when they call me at all hours and drive up to my place. It looks like I'm going to have to move again."

David's always moving, but the fans always find him. He can't go out to clubs or restaurants without being swarmed. The only mode of relaxation that's left open to him is camping. Whenever he has a few days free, he'll get together with a few pals and head out for the open country. But that's the only break in the pandemonium. "It's great to be recognized," David admits, "but to have girls chasing you, bugging you . . . well, it makes it hard on a guy."

London promoters want David back to do some concerts. While he's over there, the star would do well to check out Lloyd's of London to see if he can get some "crowd insurance." We don't know where he'll be staying, but you can bet your bottom dollar it won't be at the Dorchester.

See ABC's *The Partridge Family*.

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