



DAVID CASSIDY

It was a flop.

He returned to Hollywood to gain parts in episodes of "Ironside," "Bonanza," "Marcus Welby," and "The FBI."

The public was starting to notice him.

David Bruce Cassidy was ready. When he was signed to star as the oldest boy (16) in the singing Partridge Family, the teen magazines were hovering over him like vultures.

Bobby Sherman had almost run his course and a new idol was needed.

David Cassidy and magazine sales rocketed to the top together.

Today David, a slight 5 feet 8, is a teen star and lives in the Hollywood Hills.

What is David Cassidy really like?

In an interview, David didn't seem very happy about having to spend his break with a member of the press again. He swept back the long, brown hair which enshrines the delicate, fine-boned face. Even gross makeup failed to disguise the perfect, boyish features which

have stopped millions of girlish hearts.

David, reported to be a quiet and shy person, is obviously becoming an expert interviewee. Very warm and friendly, he is 21 but looks 16 and talks more like 30.

I asked him outright how it feels to be the heartthrob of millions.

"Unique," he answered bluntly. "I think it's an experience every American male should have. There's nothing like it.

"The timing was right for me. I was in a couple of shows and 'The Partridge Family' did the rest. The teen magazines were ready for me."

Cassidy admits that he is simply a dream figure.

"I'm just someone they think about but can never really touch. They can't imagine meeting me. It's almost like I'm not even real."

"It's scary sometimes." He shook his head.

David admitted that most of the stories produced by the magazines are concocted by vivid imaginations.

"Oh, I write a few things for them, but most of the stuff they steal from each other. I was interested in them at first, but I don't even look at them anymore."

Growing restless, David got up from the lounge and walked to the chair by the door, almost like he was signaling that the interview was over. But he sat down again, threw one leg over the arm of the chair and began to talk.

"Most of the girls are 14 and 15 so they'll grow out of it pretty quick. I expect I'm good for two or three years."

David thinks "The Partridge Family" will make it for seven or eight years on TV but doesn't believe he will stay around that long.

"It's the kind of show that will always be interesting and timely, but I want to do different things."