



"THE FATHER

I'LL BE" by David

There's a little house, all made of stone, on a thick green thatch of grass high above the rocky coast of Big Sur. From below the ghost-noise of the waves tumbling in is drowned out by the happy laughter of two little kids, naked as the day they were born, tumbling around in the grass in God's own sunshine!

The sky is always blue here, and there are never the sounds of horns, brakes, angry city shouts. Here the sounds are birds in trees, wind through the leaves, crickets hidden in the dark, and through this wonderland of music my children wander, hand in hand.

In the little house, my wife watches through the window, knowing that they're safe, but still—she's a mother, and you know how they are! And over in one corner, with sunlight streaming through a window, old Father Cassidy strums his guitar, making a kind of music to go with the laughter of his children.

All this may sound like an impossible dream, but it isn't. That tiny stone house exists, and it's where I'm going when the time has come

for me to settle down with my life—love and raise children. No kids of mine are going to grow up in a city!

OUT OF DOORS

They're going to be natural children, as at home out of doors as they are in a living room, suntanned children who can tell the kinds of trees and flowers apart, who know that most snakes don't bite, and most spiders don't do anything more undesirable than catching flies!

I am not—repeat, **AM NOT**—going to have any uptight, anxious, frightened, nervous 20th Century kids! And that's a promise, if I have to change my whole way of life to do it, if I have to give up my career, my music, and everything else. My kids will grow up someplace clean, beautiful, and peaceful, where they can learn that nature is a miracle to be treasured, not an inconvenience to be bulldozed or hidden from in the concrete canyons of the cities!

And that's a solemn vow I make to my children and myself, and to my wife-to-be, wherever she might be at this moment. That's a real promise, one hand in the air and all.

