

LIFE'S

SHIRLEY and Keith and Laurie and Tracey and Danny and Chris. That's the **Partridge Family** whose show-business trials and tribulations are followed by millions in Australia and America each week.

But what about the "flip-side" of the **Partridge Family**. Shirley Jones, David Cassidy, Susan Dey, Suzanne Crough, Danny Bonaduce and Jeremy Gelbwaks.

"I've had them with a gun at my head, almost, saying, 'Record' 'cause we've gotta get this out by Christmas', I'll feel really good when it's over.

"I have an image of myself in five years. I'm living on an island . . . my hair is really long with lots of grey. I have some grey hair already."

As 21-year-old David Cassidy attempted to explain in *Rolling Stone*, the American pop music magazine, no member of the **Partridge Family** has been more profoundly affected by its success than he has.

In two short years he has soared from an unknown television actor to an international teen superstar.

Then he was earning \$150 for a **Marcus Welby** guest shot. Last year he grossed \$1,061,000 in concerts alone and his take-home pay, before taxes, is \$250,000.

He has had to pay a price in physical and nervous energy and in reining his talents, and his exhaustion and impatience is beginning to show in such things as last May's *Rolling Stone* nude centrefold and story, which sent producers up the wall.

"If John Lennon can pose that way for a record album, I don't see why I can't strip for a picture," he snapped back at critics of the layout.

The pace, however, is vital if he is to fully capitalise on his success and lay a foundation for the future, as the popularity of the teenybopper is as short as it is intense.

In fact, some knowledgeable insiders feel he has already passed his peak and his third year will be his declining one.

● **LEFT: Shirley Jones and her youngest son . . . underneath the candy floss beats a heart of steel.**