

hot branding iron! This was definitely something serious.

He clutched the side of the bed with his hands while his roommate Sam Hyman dialed the doctor! Within minutes, an ambulance was rushing him to the hospital for an emergency gall bladder operation! The sound of the siren buzzed in his head while he struggled to keep from crying at the pain.

HURTS THAT NEVER HEAL

It took almost two months for David to recover. During that time, his beloved dog, Sam, died. David had raised the dog from a puppy, and for weeks afterwards he couldn't bear to talk about it. It seemed tears were a weekly happening!

At the end of the filming season for "The Partridge Family," David took off for a well-deserved vacation in Europe. It was while he was skiing in northern Italy that he received word that his father and Shirley were separating. This was something David had never even considered! They had been married over fifteen years, and David was equally close to both of them.

Instantly it seemed as though his world was crashing down on him again. But this time he was not six years old; he was a man. His first concern was for his three brothers. The youngest, Ryan, was just six himself. He vowed he'd do everything he could to make sure they got to see enough of their father. And during the times that Jack might be working or out of town, David would be the substitute father they needed.

"The Partridge Family" had begun filming again for the Fall season when still another tragedy struck. For his 22nd birthday, David's roommate Sam had given him an adorable English Setter puppy! David called her Kula, a Hawaiian name meaning golden.

LOVED HIS PUP

David and Kula became almost inseparable and slowly David had begun to love his beautiful pup just the way he had loved his other dog Sam.

When he came home from filming in the evening, there was Kula waiting patiently for her master. A boy and dog just seem to belong to one another!

It all ended too quickly. Although David had faithfully given Kula all



her puppy shots for distemper, she became drastically ill.

Kula had been acting strange all weekend, so Monday morning before he reported for work on the set David had dropped her off at the veterinarian's office.

That same afternoon on the set the veterinarian called to give David

the sad news. Kula had died.

David Cassidy, the boy with the sensitive eyes and soul, took this latest tragedy in his stride. Without saying a word, he walked off the set. In the silence of his dressing room, interrupted only occasionally by the hum of the air conditioning unit, he began to cry.



DAVID AND KULA—always together having fun before the pup's tragic death