



Fifteen-year-old Jackie Williams is pictured in her bedroom at 257 Central Ave., Long Branch, with some of the many fan magazines she reads. Jackie is one of eight contestants whose lyrics were set to music as a result of a contest featuring TV's Partridge Family star, David Cassidy. More than 50,000 entries were reported in the contest. Jackie's lyrics are on the first Partridge Family album. (Press Photo)

Young Fan's Poem Is Sung By Current Teen-Age Idol

"Window walking downtown feeling mighty good and I noticed from the corner how all alone she stood. Underneath the lamplight an angel in disguise lonely little runaway with teardrops in her eyes . . ."

LONG BRANCH — The "lonely little runaway" is Jacqueline Williams, a 15-year-old David Cassidy fan whose words have been put to music and are being sung on record by the young Partridge Family star.

The name of the song written to Jackie's words is "Point Me in the Direction of Albuquerque." It is on the first Partridge Family album. And, it just could be that David Cassidy will sing it at the Garden State Arts Center, Holmdel Township, this summer when he appears there for one night — Aug. 14.

Jackie says she wrote the words last year after she had a "fight" with her mother, packed her suitcase, ran away, and back again.

"I was in a sad mood, but glad to be back," she recalls.

"And," adds her mother, Mrs. Lorraine Williams, "she was sorry."

Jackie sent the poem, along with four others, to a teen-age magazine that was sponsoring a contest.

The advertisement invited teen-agers to mail in a poem on any subject. The winner would have her poem made into a song to be sung by David Cassidy, lead singer of TV's Partridge Family, on his first album.

It wasn't until the album came out that Jackie discovered she was a winner.

"We were Christmas shopping in December when Jackie recognized a phrase from the poem as a title on the album cover," her mother said. "She came over to me screaming, 'Mommy, Mommy, my song's on the album.'"

"I didn't believe her and kept saying I can't be bothered. It wasn't until we got home and the little boy next door began singing her song that I believed her and we both became hysterical!"

Jackie says her friends recognized the song as soon as they heard it.

"'Real good friend of mine,' was the phrase that did it," she says, "because it's not correct English. Most people would say 'very good friend of mine.'"

Mrs. Williams says after they discovered the song was on the album, she heard David Cassidy say on a television interview that he had received more than 50,000 poems as a result of the contest, and he made songs out of 8.

When submitted, the poem was unpunctuated.

"The book, 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' has no punctuation," notes Jackie. She went on to explain that she learned very little punctuation in school.

Jackie had a handicap in writing the poem: She has a detached retina in each eye. Her right eye is nearly blind.

She has had the defect since birth," her mother explained, adding that eye specialists feel Jackie's left eye will function sufficiently well to "pull her through life."

For the past two years,

Jackie has been tutored at her home, 257 Central Ave., because of her eyes. A major problem was her inability to see the blackboard. Because there will be less need for her to see the chalk boards in high school, Mrs. Williams says, she is scheduled to begin attending regular classes at the high school here in September. She will be a sophomore.

Jackie's love for David Cassidy is what motivated her to enter the contest, she says.

Despite the fact that she received no letter saying she had won, and only the name of the melody writer is printed on her tape cartridge, she says she's not discouraged.

"I don't need any recognition," she insists when the subject is brought up. "It's enough that he sings it."

(But the blue-eyed blonde admits she wrote a letter to David Cassidy asking him to dedicate the song to her when he comes to the arts center.)

This isn't the first contest Jackie has won. In fifth grade, she won a state-wide contest and received a blue ribbon for a humorous story she wrote about her gym classes.

Though she says gym didn't get really bad until seventh grade (when she had it every day), she managed to find enough boring and silly games to write about then.

She has no idea what she wants to do when she gets older, but she has had a few suggestions, she says.

Her nine-year-old brother, Mark, urged her to come with him to California when they both get older. She'll write the songs and he'll sing. "But he can't sing a note," laughs Jackie.

Her mother wants her to continue writing.

"But," she argues, to her mother, "it's when you and my tutor tell me to write that I can't! I have to be in the right mood."

Right now, Jackie says her main ambition is to find a job for the summer — ANY job.

"I've gone all over and nobody will hire me because I'm only 15," she says. "I even tried saying I'm 16 and it didn't work!"