



# The Danger in Getting to Know David

CASSIDY

By John Burks

Before interviewing David Cassidy at his manager lady's slick and secret Beverly Hills mountaintop ranchsecret so his fans don't mob the joint for a peek at The Star - The Examiner sought out a few people who know the man for varying degrees.

They offered two words of advice, namely:

1. He's not the naive teen-ager you might suspect from reading the fan mags. He's 22 (or will be tomorrow) with all the interests of a normal 22 year old young man. When his tour plane touched down in Bangor, Me., for instance, the limousine that greeted him came equipped with a whole lot of champagne and two sumptuous young ladies in bikinis to serve it up. David is said to have dug it.

2. The danger—as two other young ladies put it to me -in getting to know David is that you fall in love with him. There's something THAT vulnerable about him. They said that a reporter's native skepticism (or cynicism?) is altogether swept away by David's charm.

albums.

In the flesh, David Cassidy looks about 19 years old, about three years younger than he is, but at least three years older than he appears on the "Partridge Family" show.

He's a stalker. When he's most excited about what he's saying, he springs out of his easy chair and paces the floor. When he comes to the punchlines, he's got a way of leaning over and saying it right in your face.

#### Positive Attitude

asked him what he thinks his fans see in him.

"I have a positive attitude toward life and everything, and I think people respond to that. People want to be happy, you know? I have a good time when I perform, I really do enjoy it, and think that reaches them.

"But I can't tell you," he adds, "what makes me appealing as a person to these young kids. I just can't tell you that."

After witnessing David's Madison Square Garden concert, the New York Post's critic began his review:

"There is something obscene about selling sex to pre-pubescent little girls as has driven so many parents if it was apple pie." What up so many walls during the does David think of that?

"I never came out," he "and said that I was apple says, "for me." pie. There's so much that's dishonest being printed really wants to be an actor about me. These people or a musician. The answer want to make something of is that he wants to be both. me that I'm not. I have no He takes his acting just as control over what's printed seriously as his music. about me."

# Big Surprise

He says, yes, it was an enormous surprise to him when "I Think I Love You" zoomed to the top of the record charts.

"It put me in shock but it er, man," David laughs. felt great. I was right up When filming for the popuand Led Zeppelin-hte rec- credited with transforming ords MY friends were buy- Friday night from ABC's ing - even though my worst to one of its best) refriends weren't buying MY records.

"I can't stand to listen to ing Keith as an 18 year old. the first album anymore. It's too painful to hear it."

confidence and more matu-

rity in his voice on the later

But even at that, Cassidy isn't really satisfied with anything he's recorded. So far it's all been tailored to fit his role as 16 year old Keith on the TV show. He wants to perform his own songs, which, he says, "reflect who I really am."

## Goes to Piano

David strides over to his manager's piano, saying that maybe he could play one of his own songs - just a taste of one — to get across something like the kind of album he'd really LIKE to record.

The ballad that emerges is in a more adult pop mode (somewhere in the territory between Neil Young and Elton John) than anything he's recorded.

He breaks it off, complaining of an ear infection which makes it hard to hear himself. But the voice is fuller than his records seem to convey and the phrasing is a lot more flexible than the sing-songy approach that past couple of years.

"It's more like what's says, stalking the carpet, really happening," David

The question is whether he

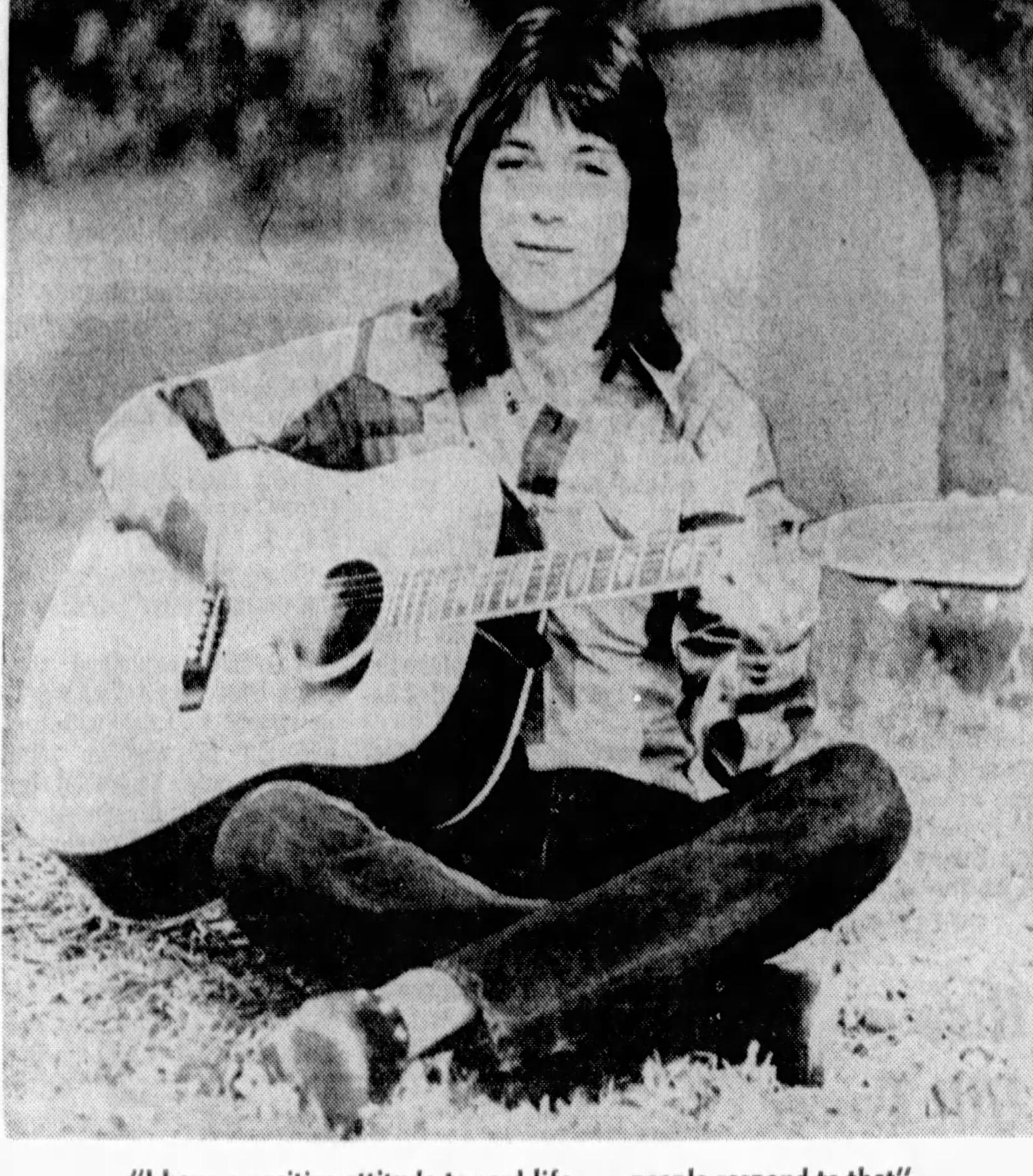
# Just a Short Time

Does this mean that he and "The Partridge Family," where he plays the eternal cutie-pie teen rock singer, will soon part?

"Can't be TOO much long-

there, alongside the Beatles lar series "Partridge" is sumes in Hollywood next month, David will be play-

"And how many kids stay home after they're 18?" he He thinks there's more asks. "It would look kind of



"I have a positive attitude toward life . . . people respond to that"

# POSTER PHOTO TOMORROW

Tomorrow is David Cassidy's 22nd birthday, and The Examiner will note the occasion by publishing an exclusive full-page poster-size photo of David. No red-blooded American girl will want to miss it! In tomorrow's Examiner!

and the kids."

As a matter of fact, he and his manager are desperately seeking some sort of movie role that could expand his appeal beyond the teenybops. They've been offered every kind of boymeets-dog, boy-meets-horse "Disney-style" movie - the sort of thing that would have the effect of prolonging

ing for as the 1972 equiva- son, you know? lent of "The Graduate." In other words, a movie that would make people take David as seriously as Dustin Hoffman, no less.

weird for Keith to become 19 around him like to talk and 20 and 21 and he's still about what great potential living at home with Mom David has, and maybe they're right and maybe not.

He remains — after an appearance in one Broadway musical (which flopped after three nights) and a handful of TV guest shots - basically an untested quantity as a serious actor.

I ask how it feels to be so famous that you've got to live in secret?

"Bad," he says. "It hurts. David's image as a 16 year The worst of it is that some people make fools of them-But that's not what they're selves just because I'm after. At all. Ruth Aarons, there. They just can't adjust the manager lady, likes to to the star thing. They just describe what they're look- can't see that I'm just a per-

"It gets really bad sometimes. I want to tell them -'Hey, man, come ON, get serious, that's not ME on TV, that's just a gig I do.' I'm Who knows whether he just glad that there's less of can do it? The people that now," says David Cas-

years, then the teenybops outgrow them. They find somebody new. So it's basically a fast buck operation. You've got to get out there and make that money while you're hot."

It's true that David came near exhaustion last year, his management acknowledges, until some breathing room was built into his schedule. And it's true that he's still setting what most people would find a grueling pace.

It's very much like a candidate seeking maximum exposure with the voters during the primaries, except his primaries have been going on for nearly two

## Big Gamble

Yes, his management acknowledges, the teenybops are fickle. Yes, they will pick other idols. Yes, they love David today, but they could drop him tomorrow, just like that.

This is why they are even now setting the stage for David's big gamble: his entry, sometime soon, into the world of adult music and adult drama.

It's safe to say David Cassidy has got a spectacular head-start toward SOME kind of permanent show biz success.

sidy, climbing into his white

'72 Corvette Stingray to

head for his Spanish style

home in San Fernando Val-

ley, with its swimming pool,

guest house, three fire-

places, numerous dogs and

"David is at his peak right

now," says "Flip" maga-

zine's Carol Deck. "He's

been up there for a year and

a half at the top. I don't

know how much longer he

"Teenybop superstars are

orange groves.

can sustain it.

But it can't happen unless he makes his move.

### Can't Stand Still

His manager, Ruth Aarons, explains: "In this business, if you stand still you're moving backwards."

What she HOPES she's got on her hands is the new, 1972-model Frank Sinatra an idea which may strike you as ridiculous at first blush. But consider for a moment the parallels beusually good for two or three tween Cassidy and Sinatra.

Think back to the Frankie Boy of the early Forties . . .

He had a frailness and a vulnerability which inspired motherly instincts in women of all ages. He had a light, sinuous, sensuous voice coupled with an easy delivery that left the bobby-soxers swooning. And, in his early movie roles, Frankie was the lovable 98 pound chump with a heart of gold who got plenty of sand kicked in his face but always wound up with the luscious starlet by the end of the final reel.

It DOES sound sorta like David Cassidy at that, don't

Stay tuned.

NEXT: David's Birthday Poster, a full page in tomorrow's Examiner!