



# David Cassidy Takes the Stand

NEW YORK

Gentle-voiced little David Cassidy was buying a pineapple island in the Pacific from his big earnings as a teenagers' superstar that recent afternoon. He was rehearsing in a studio on W. 41st St. and gesturing to the orchestra as he sang to an imaginary sweetheart. "I can't live without chuuuu." He was the the least ostentatious, and most successful, man in the building, and probably the smallest (120 pounds) and youngest (22 next month).

He'd been drinking from a can of beer as he worked, but with his bell-bottom corduroys flapping, we moved to a quiet upstairs room around a piano.

"Who's taking care of your money, David?"

"Lee Bush, a business manager and accountant. I'm investing in oil. I'm in the process of buying quite a bit of land on an island in the Pacific." He explained as he looked up at me, "If you own a lot of land, you can stand in the middle of it and they really can't see you. I like to be alone sometimes and I find it difficult to be alone. It'd be kind of nice to live on a farm and eat some fruit off the trees. Just enough space to spread out and be free and be in a positive frame of mind."

"You're a positive thinker?"

"I'm more a positive believer than a positive thinker." He tugged at the collar of his flowered shirt. "Positive thinking is not necessarily positive believing. Sometimes you say 'I'm not scared' and you're shaking like a leaf."

"Is this Dr. Norman Vincent Peale?"

He wagged his head negatively.

"Actually my mother and I formed this cult."

David added, "My real mother," to distinguish between Shirley Jones, his step-mother, the wife of Jack Cassidy, who plays his mother on "The Partridge Family" which brought him fame and riches, and his real mother who brought him up, Evelyn Ward.

"What accounts for your success?"

"I suppose it's timing. The vehicle, the show, had a lot to do with it. And the records. People were ready for it and for me."

"When did you start doing good?"

"When did I start making bread? When I was 18, I made \$5,000 that year, when I was 19, under \$10,000. From then on, I don't know what happened. Something blessed me."

**TODAY'S BEST LAUGH:** Coleman Jacoby recalls that when his grandfather was 85 he was still chasing girls around tables: "But he couldn't remember why."

**WISH I'D SAID THAT:** The way taxes are today, you might as well marry for love.

**REMEMBERED QUOTE:** "Marriage give a man the right to criticize — but not the nerve."

**EARL'S PEARLS:** The electronic age has its drawbacks. Parents who once showed you pictures of their kids now bore you with their tape recordings.

Bobby Vinton heard a woman complain to her husband, "All you do is watch TV — you love baseball and football more than you love me." "Well, yeah," the man nodded, " — but I still love you more than basketball." That's earl, brother.