



David Cassidy will be the star in the opening grandstand show at the Nebraska State Fair.

David Cassidy at the Fair Thursday Night

By HOLLY SPENCE

Stretch envelopes end to end from the east entrance of the State Capitol to Woods Pool and then run another line of letters up to the Historical Society.

That might come close to one estimate of the size of David Cassidy's weekly mail.

"It was estimated once that I got between 10,000 and 15,000 fan letters a week," said the teen music idol in a telephone interview. "It varies and there is really no possible way to tell."

Kind Words, Gifts

Cassidy said it was difficult to keep tabs on the mail count because it comes to magazines, radio and television stations, the ABC network — where he co-stars in the successful series *The Partridge Family* going into its third season — and the TV production company.

In addition to the piles of letters, Cassidy has adorned his Hollywood pad with paraphernalia from his fans.

"I've received lots of things for my house . . . quilts, blankets, candles and other things," he said. "They (his fans) spend a lot of time on them and I owe it to them to at least look at them."

One of his more surprising gifts was an honest-to-goodness live partridge which he proudly donated to a children's hospital.

The 22-year-old singing idol of kids, and many of their parents, will open the grandstand entertainment at the 1972 Nebraska State Fair at 7:45 p.m. Thursday. In addition to his own band, Cassidy said the performers will include two talented singers formerly with the Christie Minstrels singing group.

Although motion pictures, television

and the stage are three entirely different mediums, Cassidy admitted that the audience reaction of live concerts makes them the most exciting facet of his career.

"The one night stands are really exciting and fun," he said. "But it can be depressing because you never get an opportunity to settle in."

He added that he would really like to return to many of the stops on his concert itinerary.

But the greatest effect of his busy career has been on his social life.

Unchanged Personality

"There is little time in my life for dinner and dating," he said, but he maintained that his fame and fortune have not affected his personality.

"I'm still the same guy," said the young heart-throb of the teen population.

But how does a young person come to grips with remarkable fame?

"I don't mean to sound blase, but I've become accustomed to it," he noted. "I know there are certain places I can't go and certain places I can go and I manage."

He feels that his career is settling down now, however.

"When you are new, hot and fresh, you have to level out," he said. "And I think my career is spreading out and growing."

Looks to Movies

Although he began his career as a TV actor, he feels that motion picture acting holds the next David Cassidy challenge.

Even though he doesn't think he'll ever do a tune like his five million seller hit "I Think I Love You" again,

Continued on Page 6

Beatles Set Path—Cassidy

Continued from Page 1

he feels that his music is also growing and changing.

His style is most generally referred to as teen-oriented soft rock, but Cassidy said that his latest album will not necessarily fit in that mold.

The soft-spoken, but enthusiastic young star enjoys listening to all types of music, but singles out the Beatles as "having a lot to do with the direction of music."

The Beatles, he said are "everybody's music." Their tunes are sung and enjoyed by both the young and the old.

Likes Sound Variety

While he admires the "different colors" of the Beatles' music, he sometimes tires of rock groups who

always produce the same type of musical sound.

"These groups are one dimensional," he commented.

Although Cassidy doesn't know where musical trends will wind up next, he thinks that variety in sound is important.

Music is healthy when it is continually taking steps forward, he said, even though it may mean progressing to that form of rock 'n' roll prevalent in the 1950s.

Will Tour Europe

Mention stepping forward and Cassidy announces that his "records are just starting to take off" in Europe.

His European experiences have been mostly vacation travel to this point, but a European concert tour in the spring is in the planning stages.