

Ex-Pomonan Has Designs on Star

HOLLYWOOD — A former Pomona man has a job many teenyboppers would give a hundred pieces of bubble gum for.

Mikal E. Bales, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor H. Baldwin of 775 Verde Vista Ave., Pomona, has enjoyed the illustrious fame of being fashion designer for David Cassidy of "Partridge Family" billing for more than a year.

Throngs of girls in late adolescence or early teens walk, run and leap to get a momentary glance or to touch the 21-year-old Cassidy who plays the 16-year-old Keith on the weekly television show.

Bales takes the excitement of young maidens in stride and does patient handiwork on the contemporary styles fashioned for one of the latest teen idols. He coordinates the design and make of all Cassidy's costumes for the television show and personal appearances.

The 32-year-old designer attended Emerson Junior High School and graduated from Pomona High in 1958. He attended Mt. San Antonio College briefly as an English major before beginning a four-year hitch in the U.S. Air Force.

Upon leaving the armed services, he spent two years as a member of the Peace Corps, serving as an English teacher in Nigeria.

The outbreak of the Nigerian-Biafra conflict cut short this career and he was evacuated, returning to the United States to head the audio-visual department at UCLA. He spoke at Pomona Valley service clubs about his

Peace Corps experience in-between duties at the university.

The world of design, which had been merely an interesting hobby for several years, soon suggested another possibility of career and personal expression.

Besides designing clothes for Cassidy, Bales meets a constant demand for design of store and home interiors, and produces clothing for other recording artists.