

# *Vineland Aided Teen Idol*

There are those who are under the impression that "D.C." stands for District of Columbia, or maybe direct current or doctor of chiropractic. But young ladies of a certain age group, will tell you that when you're talking about D.C., you're talking about David Cassidy — period.

In case there's anyone around who never got the word, David Cassidy is to these young ladies what Rudolph Valentino was to the females of another age; what Frank Sinatra was to the bobby-soxers of the World War II era.

There are a great many Vineland members of the D.C.F.C. (or David Cassidy Fan Club) and last summer when the young man of the hour appeared in Wildwood, who do you suppose chauffeured him? Vince Spinnato of Vineland — that's who!

Vince has been answering questions about D.C. ever since. Kids keep calling him on the phone, breathlessly asking for information and intimate details about their idol. And Spinnato, obliging fellow that he is, cheerfully goes on and on about what David wore, what he drank, what he ate, what he said.

Three young ladies, all of whom attended The Concert, thought it would be a great idea to "interview" Spinnato by telephone. The interviewers, who happen to be known to the writer, turned over their notes to us in exchange for a typed transcript, and we herewith present an exclusive interview with The Man Who Drove David Cassidy Around Wildwood, as conducted by Lynne Frederick, Cheryl Bianco and Elizabeth Wallitsch:

Q: Was David nervous before the concert?

A: No.

Q: Did David eat breakfast?

A: He had toast and coffee.

Q: Were any of David's family there?

A: Just Susan Day. She came in on a different plane.

Q: Did David wear shirts and bells?

A: Yes.

Q: What did he drink while on stage?

A: Water.

Q: What did David do between concerts?

A: He stayed backstage. I was used sort of as a decoy.

(Important information: David wanted to go to the beach, but it rained).

Q: What airport did David come in at?

A: Cape May.

Q: What did he eat, besides breakfast?

A: The first night he ate a tuna fish sandwich and after the concert he ate crabs and fish. The food was picked up for him.

Q: Where did he stay?

A: At the Aquarius Motel.

Q: What room did he stay in?

A: The last room on the right, on the third floor.

Q: Did David's friends stay with him?

A: No. The only people who stayed with David were David's road manager and his bodyguard, and myself.

Q: Was David mobbed?

A: Talk about mobs! Yes. He signed all the autographs he could, and I signed some for him.

Q: How did David act?

A: He was very nice the first day or so, but by the end of the stay, David was very sick. I drove him around for three days.

(Important information: David is strictly a vegetarian).

Spinnato, who operates VIP Limousine Service, Inc., with his cousin, Neil Ruggieri, says he doesn't mind answering the endless questions. The David Cassidy fans, it seems, are "quite well mannered, and so sincere," and Mr. VIP is happy to oblige.

Spinnato, 30, is a musician by profession, and operates VIP "on the side." He and his cousin have been at it for about a year, and Vince says business is getting better all the time. Eventually he hopes to make the limousine service a full-time operation.

"Right now, we use the car mostly for weddings, funerals, trips to the airport, things like that," Spinnato says. "Once in a while we get a call to take some people to a race track, but we don't really look for that kind of business because going to the track means staying there all afternoon, it's a lot of time involved."

Spinnato figures a ride to New York by limousine costs roughly the same as a taxi trip. For example, the VIP fare to Kennedy International Airport from Vineland comes to \$75 — "whether it's one person or five."

Spinnato has his own musical combo, known as The Capris. He plays trumpet. The combo plays "all around," he says, and has appeared at night clubs and parties "all up and down the shore."

How did David Cassidy happen to pick the Vineland-based limousine service to provide his wheels for the Wildwood engagement? Would you believe the Yellow Pages?

"David's agent in Philadelphia found our name in the Yellow Pages," says Spinnato. "No big mystery about it. It was a nice job, really a pleasant experience. And, no kidding, I've enjoyed talking with the kids."